Mayhew

# *Modern Characters:*

ILLUSTRATED BY

# HISTORIES

IN

# REAL LIFE,

AND

Addreſs'd to the Polite World.

VOL. II.

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MODERN

# MODERN CHARACTERS.

## VOL. II.

## HISTORY XIV.

THE principles of intrigue are often dormant in people, who know nothing of their being poſſeſs'd of what there has been no opportunity to exert. This was the caſe with Mario, the ſilent, the diſtant adorer of the wife; but the profeſs'd and honourable lover of the widow

of Marcus. Mario was barely three and twenty: to a good figure, and natural eaſe of addreſs and manner, the good-nature of his breaſt had ſtamp'd an eternal ſmile upon his countenance; and the pleaſure he took in obliging, render'd him indefatigable in the purſuit of it. He had by nature what people acquire a faint copy of by art; and what, in the beſt ſtate of that copy, we call complaiſance.

Though no man is ſo eager to recommend himſelf as a lover, it often happens that the very paſſion, which has occaſion for all the amiable qualities a man is poſſeſs'd of to recommend itſelf, renders it impoſſible to exert them; and that the temper of mind which it brings on, obſcures and hides them all: this alſo was the caſe with Mario. The pleaſantry of countenance, the chearfulneſs of heart, the amiable ſweetneſs of manners, when they ſhould have recommended him where he moſt deſired it, were loſt in a deſponding look and melancholy aſpect. He had more diſcernment than to ſee the moſt accompiſh'd Lelia with indifference; and he had more honour than to proſecute a paſ-

a paſſion, the ſucceſs of which muſt have deſtroy'd his eſteem for the object of it. Theſe difficulties were now removed, and Mario, who could only deſpair while he was neceſſarily ſilent, now found opportunity to ſpeak, and brightened his face with hope.

Mario was the orphan of a good family. The eſtate, which had devovled to him when very young, had increaſed to a great degree during his minority. What was not at firſt deſpicable, was now become conſiderable. He had been adviſed to the ſtudy of the law, in order to know ſo much of it as would inſtruct him (as men ſay) to keep his own; and his guardian, a man of diſcretion, that he might read Coke and Littleton, inſtead of plays and pamphlets, had fixed him at Gray's-inn. With all the accompliſhments that could aſſiſt in conquering the hearts of others, his own had received no wound till the eyes of Lelia gave it. He had been too honeſt to diſſemble that which he had not felt; and this was his firſt amour. The deſpair under which he had firſt encountered it gave him all the raptures, from a poſſibility of ſucceeding, that other

lovers feel from a certainty of it. He ſaw the empreſs of his heart now no longer as a divinity that could only be worſhipped at a diſtance; he found her mortal, and to be approached. The eagerneſs of his love was calmed and temper'd by his judgment; and the ſenſe of the value of the prize which he attempted gave him new caution in every ſtep by which he made his advances towards it. He knew what the terrors of a denial would be, and he reſolv'd to evade them by declining the requeſt. He ſaw Lelia a woman whoſe heart could only be attack'd through her underſtanding: he determined to recommend himſelf to her eſteem before he would whiſper a thought of love; and he found the only proper means of introducing himſelf would be under the protection of ſome perſon on whoſe judgment ſhe depended.

The reſolution was ſoon taken when the neceſſity appear'd. Mario determined, that as his pretenſions were not on unequal terms, the more openly he made them the better. He ſaw nobody ſo proper as her father to introduce him to the acquaintance of one who would be

ſure

ſure to call in his judgment afterwards in the determination; and he reſolved to prepoſſeſs his ſentiments in his favour before that important queſtion ſhould be aſked.

The acceſſion of Marcus's fortune threw the family into a new light. Every body courts the affluent, tho' out of all way of being profited by their riches. The father was well received wherever he would do the honour of a viſit; and his prudence having in a great meaſure conceal'd the leſs favourable circumſtances of his life, what appeared now, was only underſtood as a return to the world by a man who had, in ſome diſguſt, retired from it; but who now taſted it as he uſed to do. Mario found it eaſy to throw himſelf into the way of the father of his adored; and there requir'd no artifice to recommend him to a man of that father's judgment. He was charm'd with his converſation, in love with his morals, and ſurpriſed at the caution of his conduct. 'Tis indeed an object of wonder to meet a young man of this age, at liberty, poſſeſſed of a large fortune, and free from all the vices which ſtain the characters of thoſe who have

no greatneſs but in title. Mario found the way to ſup where this gentleman did. He invited the company to ſpend the following evening with him. His œconomy at home anſwered to his conduct abroad. Every thing was elegant without extravagance; plentiful without profuſion.

If there was any ſtroke of art in the conduct of the lover, it was the making that acquaintance which was the end of all his deſigns, the act of the man with whom he wiſhed it, rather than his own. He ſucceeded. All that had enjoyed the entertainment invited the maſter of it to their houſes; and the father of Lelia preſſed this with a warmth that ſavoured nothing of the common forms of civility. He told Mario, that he reſpected him more than any man he had met with; that what would be amiable and honourable at any time of life had new charms in his; and preſſed that he might have the honour of his friendſhip. The youth bluſhed while he thank'd him: he readily accepted the preſſing invitation of his viſiting him the next day; and his rapture was too much for reſt during the night that crept between.

The

The advances that he had made with all this caution, he determin'd to ſupport with as careful a prudence. He ſpent the intermediate hours in meditating every article of his conduct: his expreſſions, his compliments, the very motions of his eyes were ſtudy'd, that he might create eſteem; where he hoped, under more favourable opportunities, to ripen it into love. On the other part, the father, who had from the firſt time he had ſeen this amiable young fellow, ſpoke of him at home almoſt in the language of a girl that had been in love with him, now encreaſed his encomiums, and even bad his daughter take Care of her heart. 'You will ſee, ſaid he, the only 'man I think worthy of you; what he 'will judge of you I know not; but if 'he makes an offer, he will certainly 'have my voice to ſupport it.' The mother ſmiled; the daughter coldly ſpoke her reſolutions againſt any ſecond marriage; and the whole was no more remember'd till the viſiter came.

Though the father, who had been of all the parties where this youth had

paid his ſilent adorations, had ſeen no part of them, the lady to whom they were directed had underſtood them all. She had taken offence at the inſolence of all who dared to look with eyes of love on the wife of another; but the diſtance and reſerve of Mario had pleaded greatly in mitigation of the fault. What was her aſtoniſhment to ſee, in this expected, this favour'd viſitant, the lover whom ſhe knew to have given moſt uneaſineſs to her huſband, tho' leaſt offence to her; whom ſhe knew to be the perſon his ſuſpicions had in their eye on the fatal night when he ſearch'd the houſe; and whom ſhe could not but conſider as the remote cauſe of his death? She had known no more of the name of the youth than her father had of his figure. She turn'd pale as he enter'd. She left the room after a few painful moments, and ſhe would not be perſuaded to return to it while he ſtaid The uneaſineſs of the parents, on the pretended diſorder of their daughter, could not prevent their being charm'd with the ſenſe and manners of the youth, who, unſuſpected by all but himſelf, had occaſioned it. They often left the room to ſpeak to her; but they found

it impoſſible to prevail with her to come in and join the company. Mario ſhortned the viſit, and the father waited on him the next morning to apologize for the accident. Mario had made it his firſt care to enquire after the lady's health; but the meſſage was couch'd in ſuch terms, that only herſelf could ever gueſs at the paſſion that inſpired it; nor could ſhe have a right to be ſerious about that which could amount to no more than conjecture.

The father ſpent ſeveral hours with him, and he became more and more enamour'd with his converſation: he repreſented his daughter to him as a perſon whom he would have him highly charm'd with, and he preſs'd him to repeat his viſit very ſoon, that he might have the opportunity for making the beſt apology he could for the interruptions of the laſt. Lelia wiſh'd ſhe could have put off the engagement, but it became impoſſible: ſhe had thoughts of going out, but it would have been rude, when the father had told her he had promis'd to introduce his viſiter to her. She was ſenſible that it was wrong in her to leave the room before, and that to repeat ſo ſingu-

lar a conduct would be ſtill worſe. What it was impoſſible to avoid, ſhe prepar'd herſelf to meet. She determin'd on the ſtricteſt reſerve before a man whom ſhe knew to be a lover, though ſhe had not courage to tell thoſe who were about her that he was ſo: ſhe reſolved to affect the ſtranger and the indifferent as much as poſſible. She had prepar'd herſelf with looks of ſtrange terror for the returns of any amorous ones from him; and expected him with real fear, but with no ſpark of love.

Her premeditated conduct was of no more uſe than his had been. His behaviour as perfectly ſet aſide all occaſion of the one, as her abſence had of the other. He paid his viſit with due form; and ſtaid no longer than a viſiter of form uſually does. If the mother had been pleaſed with what ſhe had ſeen of him before, ſhe was charm'd with him now; and for the father, if there were any thing he was diſſatisfy'd with, it was his coldneſs to the merits of his daughter. Lelia, incapable of diſguiſe, heard their praiſes. When he was gone ſhe heard her father's accuſation, and, in anſwer to it, ſhe ſur-

priſed

priſed them with the truth. She told them how long he had been her lover; ſhe convinced the father of the pains he had been at to obtain this favourable admiſſion to the family. 'And now, 'ſaid ſhe, ſir, in what manner do you 'think I ought to receive a man whoſe 'whole conduct is deceit; who has im-'poſed upon you, and who has artifice 'enough to miſlead all the world!' 'With open arms, reply'd the father 'eagerly; 'tis not his art, but his merit, 'that recommeded him to me, and 'what you accuſe him of is virtue. 'The man who, of a number that ad-'mired you while married, was the only 'one who never affronted you with his 'paſſion; and who now, that he intends 'to addreſs you, has choſen your father 'for his advocate; whoſe virtues are 'more than you will meet in many men; 'whoſe fortune is greater than you can 'expect with a man whom you would 'approve, deſerves more than your ap-'probation. I am rejoiced, conclud-'ed he, that my friend will think as 'I, ignorant of his heart, wiſh'd he 'would; and if I have any influence 'over you, for I do not pretend to com-

'mand, you will receive him as one
'who has the ſtrongeſt claim to your
'approbation.'

The lady was aſtoniſh'd. It could not be the intereſt of her father that ſhe ſhould marry. She thought ſhe had complimented him extremely in the declaration that ſhe did not intend to do it, and her eyes could no longer be ſhut againſt that merit which had conquer'd every thought of intereſt in the mind of one who had not her title to the influence of it. She was unwilling to be outdone in what was good, even by her father. She found a thouſand reaſons pleading in favour of Mario; ſhe wiſh'd to yield her aſſent to the force of them. She was aſham'd not to meet the praiſe ſhe heard with an equal warmth, and more aſham'd to confeſs the reaſon of her coldneſs; or, to ſpeak in more equal terms, of her averſion. She had look'd on the defects in her late huſband's temper as habits impoſſible to be remedied, and which it was her duty to bear, as ſhe had known that ſhe married on that condition. Even his jealouſy ſhe imputed to his fondneſs, and to the weakneſs of his faculties;

culties; and while ſhe found herſelf oblig'd to him, in regard to one of the ſources of it, ſhe found the other a thing for which ſhe was to pity, not to blame him. She ſaw his death as the evident conſequence of that jealouſy. She ſaw in Mario the object of it; and, conſequently, ſhe ſaw in him the cauſe of his death. She had as much averſion as Andromache to the taking the murderer of her huſband into her arms; and ſhe had the ſuperior diſtreſs, that while that heroine could triumph in the declaration of her reaſons for averſion, ſhe could not even confeſs hers.

In this ſtate was the heart of Lelia, when the impatience of the lover broke thro' the reſtraint of the man of prudence, and ſhe received from Mario the following letter:

"MADAM,

"THE man who had determined "to die in ſilence when he admired the wife of Marcus, preſumes, "amidſt ten thouſand fears and anxieties, to confeſs that he loves his widow. "How do you read this declaration! "Diſguiſe

" Diſguiſe were a crime when I write on
" ſo important an occaſion: I dare not
" treſpaſs on you with my complaints or
" my proteſtations: I only requeſt of
" you, when I have the honour to viſit
" next in your family, to ſee me, if it
" be poſſible, with eyes that ſhall not
" ſpeak your diſpleaſure at having read
" this letter. Of the thouſand things
" that would obtrude on this occaſion,
" there is only one to which I ſhall dare
" give words, that I tremble 'till I know
" you have the goodneſs to forgive the
" preſumption, in however hard a light
" you may receive it.

MARIO."

The father had a right to the contents of a letter of this import. Had nature denied it to him, reaſon, and the great opinion Lelia entertain'd of his candour, wiſdom and humanity, independent of the tyes of blood, would have made her throw it before him for his advice. The conflict, viſible in her eyes, gave her mother an impatient expectation. Neither had any cauſe to ſuſpect ſhe would ever affect to make any thing a ſecret: ſhe dropp'd her looks to the ground: ſhe

' bluſh'd.

bluſh'd. 'Suffer me, ſaid ſhe, for rea-
'ſons that cannot be explain'd, to de-
'ſtroy a letter which I know you expect
'to ſee. I had been much better pleaſed
'not to have ſeen it myſelf.'

The impatience was the greater on this new conduct in the lady; but the reſpect to which ſhe had a right, and with more than a fair portion of which they always treated her, prevail'd over all conſiderations. 'I have only one favour, ſaid 'the father, I beg you will ſhew me the 'name.' He ſtarted at ſeeing Mario at the bottom. He had no power to command, but he entreated to be inform'd of the whole; he preſs'd too hard to be deny'd. He read it aloud, he gaz'd upon his daughter: the mother exclaim'd, if it was impoſſible for her to give her reaſons; it was as impoſſible for her to ſuppoſe ſhe could have any. She was confuſed at their queſtions, and it appear'd that ſhe did but affect the coldneſs, which was in reality averſion. The father anſwer'd the letter. He told the lover, that his miſtreſs had, before it came, inform'd them of his early paſſion; that he attributed to merit what ſhe call'd arti-

fice in his introducing himſelf by his means: that he honour'd him for his ſilence when pretenſions would have been criminal and infamous; and honour'd him as much for the method he had now taken of recommending himſelf to her. He acknowledg'd that ſhe put on a ſtrange and ungrateful, as well as unnatural coldneſs; but that he believed it was not diſlike, but pretence.—He aſſured him of his good offices, and preſs'd him to repeat his viſits.

From this time Mario became intimate in the family. It was ſuppoſed in diſguiſe that Lelia declared her acquieſcence in his viſits was to oblige her father; but ſhe ſuffer'd them on no conditions but thoſe of her parents being preſent, and on his promiſe never to mention a paſſion which in the moſt ſolemn manner ſhe declared ſhould be unſucceſsful. It was the determined purpoſe of Lelia not to admit Mario as a lover. It was her reſolution never to marry at all: and even that was ſuperſeded by a much more violent one againſt that particular perſon. Perhaps the delicacy was carried too far, as the lover could be accuſed of nothing

to

to the injury of the deceaſed, more than the having been the innocent cauſe of his apprehenſions ; but the point is tender, and it would be hard to ſay that ſhe was wrong. The woman who admits a man of merit to her friendſhip, deceives herſelf when ſhe ſuppoſes ſhe can limit her approbation as ſhe pleaſes. In allowing Mario leave to be more perfectly known to her, ſhe gave him all the opportunities of charming. In forbidding him to ſpeak of his paſſion, ſhe furniſh'd him with the ſtrongeſt of all arguments in its favour. Nothing is ſo eaſy to a good heart as the office of a friend : nothing is ſo difficult as the part of a lover, when it is to be ſhewn before a diſcerning eye. To ſay no more than enough, is coldneſs ; to ſay more, is flattery. To look upon a miſtreſs only with the eyes of all the world is too little ; to ſee her in a light in which others do not, is deluſion. She fears ſhe does not poſſeſs the affection of the man who ſees her no more than ſhe is ; ſhe dreads the diſcovery of the error in the the man who ſees her under the advantages of fondneſs and adoration. In the one caſe, ſhe fears the charm that can alone enſure the happineſs of their union is wanting : in the other, ſhe ſees that happineſs

pineſs owing to a charm which muſt be broken. The diſtance of the object, and the flattery of hope, only give the wild, the enthuſiaſtic ideas in this ſcene; and ſhe knows that a nearer acquaintance takes off the colouring: and that when there is enjoyment of all we have wiſh'd, there is an end of hope. This is the true ſtate of the caſe with regard to this paſſion, as ſeen by every wiſe eye; and on the diſcovery 'tis no wonder that people dread the conſequences. Perhaps it would be well if other conſideration were allow'd more ſhare in the general diſpoſition of hearts; or, to ſpeak more adequately, if people's underſtandings were married inſtead of their inclinations. The degrees of theſe are more numerous than thoſe of faces, and there is none to which ſome other is not ſuited. The moſt exalted are alone the admiration of the multitude, ſince people muſt, in ſome degree at leaſt, comprehend what they admire: theſe would, on this plan, be left to one another; that is, they would have objects to charm which were worthy to be eſteem'd by them; and for the reſt, the deformities would fall to the lot of eyes not calculated for the diſcovering them.

What

What cannot, though it were to be wiſh'd, be brought into practice with the world, was happily executed on this amiable widow. The love was what it ſhould be on the man's ſide. Virtue will anſwer all its purpoſes in the wife. Lelia never turn'd her thoughts toward the paſſion at all. Perfect Love and perfect obedience are the ſame thing. Mario, condemned to ſilence on this head, ſpoke, acted, thought, as if the command had annihilated the ſenſations. He was on a footing of the greateſt intimacy with the woman whom it was the buſineſs of his life to charm; and, to a perſon of her diſcernment and her virtues, the life of Mario had the moſt power of all things to charm. The diſtaſte which we take up, even on juſtifiable occaſions, always decreaſes as we become familiar with the object: Mario grew more and more tolerable to the lady. Happily for her ſhe had never given any notice of the cauſe of her averſion; happily for him he had never ſuſpected it. To have confeſs'd it, would have made it almoſt infamy in her to go back from her determinations: to have known it, would have

have been in him to have pleaded againſt its force; and this would have been to have given it more. It is not the buſineſs of the lover of a widow to call up the tears that commemorate her huſband; and of all things this was what it would have been impoſſible to overcome: to forget it was poſſible, and was all that could be in favour of him whom it affected.

From ſeeing Mario without diſtaſte, the lady began to honour him with her approbation; the applauſes of the parents would now find an aſſenting yes from her; ſhe would be uneaſy if he did not come when he was expected; ſhe would approve his ſentiments in converſation; and ſhe would applaud the actions that countenanced them. She gave her eſteem to the man who dared not court her love; and that paſſion which he had not preſumed to hope, follow'd its parent approbation with its uſual haſty ſteps. 'Tis thus that a woman of underſtanding is cheated out of her heart; 'tis thus that ſhe ſhould loſe it: to give it at random is the act of idiots; to ſuffer it to follow where wiſdom leads, is to diſpoſe it as

as we ought. Mario, who had not dared to ſollicit what he wiſh'd, dared no more to believe what he ſaw. The amiable creature found her own weakneſs; ſhe grew conſcious of diſcovering it by a thouſand unguarded expreſſions: ſhe ſaw the triumph in her father's eyes, the joy that ſparkled in her mother's; 'twas only her lover's which gave no proof of their perceiving it. The chains which merit had thrown about her, the modeſty of her adorer fix'd for ever. She could not bear his abſence; ſhe could not keep her eyes from him while he was near her; her tongue had loſt all its eloquence, except when employ'd in his praiſe: ſhe grew aſham'd of an unreturn'd paſſion; ſhe bluſh'd to ſee the fondneſs all on her own part; and ſhe was impatient to hear what ſhe had commanded not to be ſpoken.

Judgment had guided Mario in the whole courſe of this perilous voyage. He ſaw his ſituation; he had recourſe to the pilot who had brought him within ſight of the port, to ſteer the veſſel into harbour. What it would have been inſolent to have ſaid before, he now found it

duty

duty to give words to. What it would have been vanity to ſuppoſe he ſaw, when it did not exiſt, it would now have been cruelty to have ſhut his eyes againſt. The family ſaw the anxiety on both parts; they determin'd to favour an explanation which muſt tend to their mutual eaſe, much more, to their happineſs. Mario was going to them one evening when he met the coach. He ſaw the father and the mother of his miſtreſs in it; he was ſurpriſed not to ſee that lady with them. They ſtopp'd to tell him they ſhould return in half an hour, and would not part from him 'till they had his promiſe to wait for them at home.

Mario, for the firſt time, ſaw his ador'd Lelia alone. The bluſh that diffuſed itſelf over her whole face and neck encouraged his reſolution. He ran to her; he ſeiz'd her trembling hand, and throwing himſelf on his knees, 'This is the 'only poſture in which I dare tell you 'how much I adore you.' The confuſion of the lady gave no power for utterance, but ſhe raiſed him with a look of unutterable tenderneſs. 'Tis thoſe who feign a paſſion that can beſt deſcribe it,

it, real extaſy has no organs for its utterance; the reviving eyes, the heaving breaſt, the trembling lips, may ſpeak it, but words would diſgrace the expreſſion, and nature has in tenderneſs deny'd them. Little was ſaid by the lovers during the abſence of the parents; but enough was deſcribed, enough was underſtood on all parts. It was not 'till they return'd that either found a tongue. The lover could tell the father the thouſand raptures which he had not power to deliver to the immediate ear, which now drank them in with tranſport; and the lady could tell her mother, that ſhe hoped there was no crime in ſeeing the merit of a man who was giving her repeated teſtimonies of it.

It is not to be conceived how great a relief the virtuous and modeſt lover finds in the addition of a third perſon to the party. He deſires this as much as the vicious and abandon'd would avoid it. A thouſand things may be ſaid of the object of his paſſion which it were almoſt impoſſible to ſay to her; and there are many things which ſhe may hear with decency at this diſtance which ſhe could not nearer. With theſe advantages our lovers had

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the ſuperior happineſs of friends, advocates, and powerful ones, in thoſe whom they now made their confidants. They were now only entruſting a ſecret perfectly known before; and they were committing it to ears that were rejoiced to hear it owned.

A courtſhip thus advanced before it is declared, is, when it is declared, accompliſhed. The parents banter'd the lady's reſerve, and the lover's terrors; every thing conſpir'd to promote the paſſion that had been declar'd, or that had been confeſs'd on both ſides; and Mario ſaw the hour approaching of which he had ſo long deſpair'd. The lady, as much above diſſimulation as deceit, did not affect to make a ſecret of her approbation. The firſt diſcloſing of her paſſion countenanced all that follow'd, and ſhe received the lover, as the world had thought ſhe very long before received him, on the terms of one who was to be her huſband.

Mario wiſh'd, but he dreaded to propoſe the completion of their happineſs. He read conſent; he read much more than conſent, he read inclination in her eyes;

eyes; but the office was too important for his tongue. He had not dared to name the word marriage to Lelia, when he requeſted her father to preſs for her immediate conſent to it. The parent rejoiced in the office. The daughter heard him without even an affected ſurprize. She thank'd him for the part he took between them. She was laviſh in the encomiums which ſhe had beſtow'd on his diſintereſted conduct, which ſhe now ſaw continued as it had been begun. She own'd ſhe lov'd Mario; ſhe confeſs'd ſhe ſhould be miſerable if ſhe was not married to him. But with all this frankneſs, all the raillery and all the eloquence, all the chidings and all the entreaties of her father, could not prevail with her to alter a reſolution of mourning two years for her dead huſband.

When the ſubject had been propoſed, when ſhe had received it without anger or averſion, it was eaſy for the lover to preſs his own cauſe. He thought he ſhould have found the objection trivial, but he ſaw his miſtreſs, determinate alike in all things, fix'd in her reſolution as in her conſent: ſhe put an end to ſollicitations

by the ſerioufneſs of her refuſal. The day of their marriage was fix'd; though at that great diſtance, writings were prepar'd; and the lover found means to return the obligation he had to the parents of his miſtreſs, by ſecuring to them that affluence to which they had again given up their pretenſions, in their promoting the marriage of the perſon on whom it depended.

Mario viſited as he uſed to do in the family; but, at the requeſt of the lady, the terms of certainty on which he was received were not diſclos'd. Every body ſuppoſed he was to be the huſband of the beautiful widow; but only themſelves and her parents knew it was certainly to be ſo. The fortune of the lover, though conſiderable, was not merely what on a Smithfield bargain the lady might have expected; but her generoſity was greater than the diſproportion. Mario had given orders that the writings ſhould be ſo drawn, that the lady might find herſelf on terms as advantageous as if her huſband had been what ſhe had in fortune a right to expect: he ſign'd without reading them; and he diſcover'd afterwards, that

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ſhe had given the laſt directions, and had left herſelf jointur'd, not as became her own, but his fortune; and had thrown every thing of her own, which he had order'd to be added entire to the ſettlements, into his power.

Diſappointments are rare among thoſe who have prudence and have virtue. There is ſuch a thing as ſetting one's ſelf above their reach. It is not always that the events of actions are what they promiſe; they are ſometimes what they deſerve; and the fruit of generoſity is what would have been ſought from avarice. While the delays of Lelia kept the lover, though not in miſery, yet in a painful impatience, the nephew of Marcus came back. This ſon of the unhappy judge, who had fled for the ſad effect of his reſentment againſt the lover of his ſiſter, and had been all theſe years abſent, return'd. He had found means, at length, to have his ſtory properly repreſented, and the friends of the unhappy victim to his miſtaken fury ſaw him in a light that would have render'd their reſentment criminal. They had engag'd themſelves not to commence

any proſecution; even the promiſe of the royal favour was obtain'd, if they ſhould have forfeited their engagements, and the youth return'd, though not to happineſs, yet to content and tranquility.

The appearance of this unexpected perſon produced a ſtrange change in the affairs of the little family, which have been the objects of the preſent obſervations. Had the brother of the judge been living, he muſt have given up the fortune which he became poſſeſs'd of by his death, when his ſuppoſed dead ſon appear'd. What remain'd then for his widow? A moment ſtripp'd the before happy Lelia of all ſhe was poſſeſs'd of, and even left her accountable for the income of her time of widow'd poſſeſſion. There was no diſputing the title of the claimant: he was touch'd with the diſtreſs in which his return, he foreſaw, muſt involve an innocent, and, as he had heard on all parts, a worthy family. He would not ſuffer his claim to be carry'd by his attorney; he viſited them himſelf. It was after great precautions, that he informed them who he was: the conſequences were evident; but he obviated the

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worſt terrors, by aſſuring them that he had order'd all retroſpects to be omitted; and that he requeſted them, as ſome conſolation under the unexpected diſappointment, to accept of five thouſand pounds.

The lover of the fair widow was preſent when he made the viſit. He had engag'd himſelf more deeply than even thoſe moſt immediately concern'd in the event; he ſaw the eyes of all turn'd upon him; he underſtood it as a duty not to interrupt any part of a declaration ſo important as that which the new heir was making. When he had done, he thank'd him, begg'd him to direct his bounty to that worthy pair; as to the young lady, ſhe, he added, ſhould receive obligations, if they could be call'd ſuch, only from himſelf. The ſecurities, on the part of the parents, were immediately drawn up; the gratitude of Lelia did what all her fondneſs had attempted in vain; it gave her to the perſon who had ſo nobly deſerved her, the very day following. The harmony ſubſiſts between all the parties. Virtue naturally endears thoſe who are poſſeſs'd of it to one another. The bride and

bridegroom join'd with their parents in ſettling a family; one houſe conveniently and happily holds them, and the moſt welcome and moſt frequent viſitant at it is the nephew of the dead Marcus.

## HISTORY XV.

AMONG the train of lovers who had perſecuted Lelia with their adoration, while ſhe was the wife of Marcus, was the gay, the noiſy, the fluttering Celſus. Incapable of the ſuppoſition that he could be refuſed, he had attack'd her as a perſon who would have honour in yielding to him; and when he found her contempt in the place of that admiration he expected, he pity'd the poor creature for want of diſcernment, rallied his own partiality that could not read unconquerable ſtupidity in her face, and order'd his chariot to Ranelagh.

Celſus, with qualifications which nature intended for good purpoſes, is at once the moſt arrogant, and the moſt contemptible of mankind. What

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the naturaliſts have ſaid of the human ſpecies is verify'd in his ſingle inſtance; and the abuſe of parts renders him ridiculous, while the defect of them makes a thouſand others the objects only of a good-natur'd pity. Celſus has judgment and knowledge; but the coxcomb prevails, at the expence of all other qualities: he has a ſpirited imagination, a vivacity unknown to all men but himſelf, a complaiſance that recommends him among the civil, and a decent rudeneſs that makes his way among the women of ſpirit, beyond all things that man ever poſſeſs'd. Good-nature is an eſſential in his conſtitution; he was born with a predominant portion of it; but his talent is flattery. He will lye with an air ſo ſerious and reſerved, that 'tis impoſſible he ſhould be ſuſpected; and if he thinks it worth while to be aſſiduous, which is now and then the caſe, the neglect of a whole ſex gives a new recommendation to his attentions.

Theſe are the qualities of a man, in whom the coxcomb, once thought only a ſtage character, ſhines in real life, in every action of his life, and equal in all.

Other men can be inſolent under ſucceſs; but 'tis the prerogative of Celſus to be arrogant in adverſity. He ſmiles upon the woman who receives him, and accepts the deference ſhe pays him, as acknowledged to his merit; but when he is refus'd, pride takes the place of ſhame, and the relating the circumſtances in his favour ſets him in a light with himſelf that makes, even the happier lover, look deſpicable in the compariſon. 'Let him 'take one wrong-headed woman, cries 'he; let him plume himſelf upon the 'advantage which he has from her want 'of taſte, and ſuppoſe it the child of 'his own accompliſhments: the ſex 'declares for me, and I can only pity 'the bigotted fool who fancies charms 'in another.'

Celſus is received every where, but he is deſpiſed in as many places as he is received. If any woman is inclin'd to think of him with more reſpect, ſhe fears him, and the conſequence is the ſame. Flatter'd every where with hopes, flatter'd ſtill more with repulſes that are owing to his character of inconſtancy, and with fears that paint him formidable to every

female

female heart, Celſus never arrives farther than at the proſpect of an amour: but the credit of one is the principal pleaſure Celſus could receive from it, and conſequently he is not diſappointed. The familiarity of his viſits give him the reputation of an intrigue wherever he goes: the love of flattery ſacrifices the character of the lady, while her fears preſerve her virtue: and Celſus ſucceeds, and the lady is ruin'd without any harm being done, or any pleaſure received on either ſide.

The heart of Celſus is perfect tinder, every ſpark catches. It is his unlucky fate, that a woman cannot poſſeſs any thing agreeable, but he finds it out in an inſtant, and, blinded with the luſtre, he ſees none of her imperfections. 'Tis thus Celſus addreſſes every woman he meets, for every woman has ſomething agreeable about her: 'tis thus the reign of one is ſupplanted by the next; and the ſucceſſion is ſo ſwift, that there is ſcarce time for an acknowledgement of the right. Celſus's heart ſeems to have been ſo often pierced, that there is no farther place for a wound; the arrows all go through it; and though they

tickle his imagination as they paſs, they have no opportunity to give him either pain or pleaſure.

'Tis thus Celſus lives among the female world; a man intimate with it, and yet perfectly unacquainted with it. Every body receives him, and yet every body rejects his ſolicitations; he flatters, they laugh; he banters, they laugh too; he ſolicits, and they make him the ſame return; he makes himſelf eaſy under one diſappointment, by running where he is ſure to find another; and forgetful of the paſt, he expects from every future viſit, as a certainty, what he never received from any preceding one. There is not a life of ſuch perfect diſappointment, or of ſuch perfect ſatisfaction. When he was leſs known, the ſtory of his ſucceſs in one family, where he never had any ſucceſs at all, led his way to the next where he attempted to introduce himſelf: the mothers and the aunts ſaw reputations ſacrificed; it was not to their purpoſe what had been the fate of virtue; they exclaim'd; he rejoiced in it; they painted him as the ravager and deſtroyer of virginity, till himſelf, as well

as their daughters and nieces believed it. If a wife had ſuffer'd in her character by his viſits, the huſband made it a point to repreſent him in ſuch a light, in all companies, that he was voted out by the majority of wives; if a keeper found his peace violated with apprehenſions, whatever was their foundation, the whole legion of thoſe dupes were ſet upon their guard, and the women of eaſieſt acceſs to others became the moſt difficult of all to Celſus.

Stripp'd of all the advantages of intrigue, by the reputation of poſſeſſing them, Celſus was reduced to ſelect a miſtreſs from the humbler ranks; and, to pique the people who had ſufficiently mortified him by their reſerve, he made choice of a genteel woman; he made her outdreſs them, not in finery, but in taſte and elegance; he led her to all places of public reſort; he complimented her with all that politeneſs nature had made him maſter of; and he never ſaw any other face while he was with her. People were vex'd at the preference he gave to ſuch a creature, but no body chooſe to diſpute it. They rail'd, but none laid in a claim.

He ſaw the plan ſucceed. He was firſt of all the polite people at Bath. His miſtreſs was no more remember'd: the gay, the gallant Celſus was alone: he had the advantage of early acquaintances with thoſe who came while the place was thin. The people who follow'd ſtared to ſee him received into families. It was in vain to exclaim againſt him to one woman who receiv'd him, for all did ſo: people ſtared; but they did as they ſaw others do. The terrors of the deluder vaniſh'd, as they became acquainted; and from that period Celſus became the ſame harmleſs creature, in the eyes of thoſe who uſed to fear him, that other beaux and rakes were. He was ſuſpected of intimacies in every family where he viſited, by all but the people themſelves; and paſs'd a life of vaſt importance, in his own conception; but of the utmoſt contempt in that of every body elſe.

It was to Ranelagh, the reſort of the gay, the idle and the amorous, that Celſus had order'd himſelf to be driven, from the blind, the undiſtinguiſhing Lelia. He had forgot that it was a maſquerade evening; but there are dreſſes at the

the houſe; he join'd the company; he found out every body that ſeem'd worth enquiring after, except one, and that was the lady to whom he therefore gave the preference. Novelty had charms, and he flatter'd himſelf he ſhould find others in the ſame perſon. He ran over the common nonſenſe of the plaee, and he received the common nonſenſe in anſwer; he became particular, and the lady ſerious. He had a mind to have her, and ſhe had rather he would let it alone; he exulted upon this, and ſhe laugh'd at his credulity. He became enamour'd, and ſhe left him.

The completeſt coxcomb that nature ever form'd had now met with the greateſt of all coquettes. The object of his new paſſion was no other than the blooming Lyce, the admiration and jeſt of the whole town: Lyce had paſs'd thro' the world of men as Celſus had thro' that of women, with ten thouſand adorers, but no lover. Every man who ſaw Lyce admir'd her, every body who heard her was raviſh'd; but every body who knew her was cured. Lyce had from nature all that Celſus could boaſt, and ſhe made

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as impertinent a uſe of the benefits. She was handſomer than any body; but what purpoſe did her beauty anſwer? the women envy'd; that is, in other words, the women hated her: the men were charm'd; but how? as they were with the beauties of Hampton-Court, a mere thing of canvaſs, beyond the reach of ſenſibility, while they ſigh'd for the face, they deſpis'd the heart; and of the modern lovers, the few, for they are very few, who had conceptions for the ſuperior beauties of the mind, were out of patience with her for the miſapplication.

Lyce had been among the great; ſhe had received the firſt rudiments of her philoſophy in that ſchool which teaches that deceit is the proper armour of beauty; that men are betrayers, and to be treated as they deſerve, with a return of perfidy; that love is a name, marriage a convenience, and both may be as well directed to one object as another; that their paſſions are not in their command, and therefore they are to avoid the occaſions of them; and that to guard themſelves againſt being induced to favour one man, they muſt receive the addreſſes

dreſſes of all, 'till an offer of advantage comes in the way, and then ſuit it to the views of the eſtate, without regard to whom it belongs.

With theſe ſentiments inculcated from infancy, and with a heart naturally turn'd to inconſtancy, with an eagerneſs after conqueſts, unknown even to the beauties of the time, and with vanity as the great, the ruling principle in all her actions, Lyce ſet forward on the theatre of the public world; to be admir'd, to admire, to marry, and to obviate repentance by being conſcious it would be neceſſary. Lyce had charms not confined to her face alone; her neck was longer than any woman's, and whiter than even paint could make another's; ſhe wore no ornament to ſhorten or to hide it; her ſhoulders fell in the form of thoſe of the Grecian ſtatues, fleſh and blood never were like them; her form was equal throughout. You would have thought, to have met her, that you ſaw ſome animated ſculpture, or the idea of ſome painter perſonaliz'd. It was not enough to compare her to thoſe pieces in which art had combin'd the graces of ſeveral

different

different perſons to form one beauty: ſeveral could not come up to ſuch a one. To follow her you cry'd with Virgil, 'Vera inceſſu patuit Dæa.' Her porte was more than human. Lyce enjoy'd the envy of her own ſex, as ſhe enjoy'd the idolatry of the men. The more ſhe condeſcended to ſhew of herſelf, the more ſhe claim'd of both. No part of her neck was hid, unleſs by a cypreſs, which ſhew'd it with more grace through its thin texture: her coats were not ſo awkwardly long as to hide much more than her garter, if the zephyrs courted leſs She ſtood ſuperior to all: ſhe look'd conqueſt and dominion. Wherever ſhe appear'd, the leſſer ſtars had no longer influence: ſhe was lov'd and abus'd, ador'd and deſpis'd by all, of all ſexes, ages, and conditions.

With ſuch a perſon, and with ſuch a heart, Lyce had made a thouſand conqueſts, and had thrown them all away again. She had been courted by many, but ſhe eſteem'd it robbery to accept of leſs than a Gunning had commanded; ſhe had been the toaſt and the idolatry of Bath for a ſeaſon. Celſus had been

ravaging

ravaging the town in the mean time; for he had directed their arms to different ſcenes of conqueſts, and they had not met till on this favourable night at Ranelagh. They had both hearts, at all times and under all circumſtances, ready to fire on a new occaſion; but what vanity alone would have commanded at any time, pride and reſentment inforced now in the doing on the part of Celſus. The cold, the intrepid Lelia had refus'd him: he ſaw an object under the compariſon with which a thouſand Lelias had in his eyes been diſregarded. Lyce confeſs'd the power of ſympathy as ſtrongly, and more honeſtly. The courſe of her amours was but as uſual, and ſhe had no new ſcene of provocation. They met; they ſtarted; they both caught the ſame ſweet madneſs; they paſs'd; they naturally turn'd to ſee again what it was that they had paſs'd, and robb'd one another of the view.

Ranelagh is a place where people meet their acquaintance at leaſt forty times in an hour; thoſe who take the ſmaller circle oftener. Celſus got cloſe to the inner building that he might take the ſhorteſt turn.

turn. Accident or choice, or ſome ſtrange power or other, directed Lyce to the ſame choice; they met, they gaz'd, they ſigh'd; both roll'd their eyes in agony of admiration; both ſmil'd, both ſtrutted, and both kept the whole regard toward one another. Lyce drew up her neck; Celſus adjuſted his ſword-knot. It was evident to every body, that they were mortally wounded; and as every body laugh'd at both, and every body hated both, it was no common entertainment to obſerve the progreſs of the paſſion. Many congratulated themſelves on ſeeing both heartily ill treated; many of the more peaceable lookers on, like thoſe who ſee a battle in the ſtreet, where both parties are well beaten, very cooly ſaid, 'Let them, they both deſerve it:' but even envy, even malice could not claim the place of all the other paſſions. The rank, which it was evident they would hold in one another's eſteem, was grudg'd on one part by the men, and on another by the women; nor were there wanting, on both parts, thoſe who thought the being ill uſed by the one or by the other too great an honour for either.

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Too full of their own concerns to pay any regard to the thoughts, the flattery, the hatred, or the envy of others, they purſued one another with their eyes. Phœbus never follow'd the flying Daphne with half that eagerneſs with which the lover courſed his gentler miſtreſs when ſhe was before him; but 'twas with leſs ſpeed, becauſe the miſtreſs was leſs coy. They met after the purſuit, and they prepar'd to go; the lady look'd as if ſhe curtſy'd, and ſaid good bye; the lover bow'd; he follow'd to the coach; he found who the illuſtrious fair one was; he determin'd to purſue the game; and, ſportſman like, the pleaſure of killing left no room in his imagination for the reliſh at table.

If Celſus could not ſleep for ſchemes, Lyce wak'd with pride. She had enquir'd of the firſt perſon ſhe ſaw who was that coxcomb. Be the perſon who it would, it was pretty certain he would be able to anſwer the queſtion. She had talk'd of him at ſupper; ſhe had heard of all his faults: they were ſo like, ſo very like her own, which ſhe had been ſo long in love with, that ſhe took them

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all for virtues. She languiſh'd to ſee him again; ſhe dy'd to abuſe him; and the lover, every way her match, ſaw the pride of having made the conqueſt as a very nothing, in compariſon of the promis'd joy of ſhewing her to the world as a captive; of revenging on her head her inſolence of triumph, the pomp of victory with which ſhe had treated every gay, and every great man of his cotemporaries. True heroes and heroines in love are like thoſe in arms: there is a meanneſs in all their pride, a ſeverity which debaſes the glories of the conqueſt. Not content to conquer, the beau, and it is the ſame with the belle, muſt triumph. The Hector, whom it would have been immortality but to kill, muſt be dragg'd at the chariot wheels, and give the ſtaring croud an opportunity to ſee, that thoſe whom they would have ador'd as creatures of a ſuperior order, had they known when to ſtop their demands for that adoration, have paſſions like their own, and in the midſt of the hero ſhew the coxcomb.

'Tis thus that human nature ſerves her favourites. Earneſt to keep up the equality which ſhe intended among her children,

dren, ſhe debaſes in proportion as ſhe exalts; and what ſhe places in one ſcene as the object of our envy, ſhe ſeldom fails to make in another that of our contempt. We pity the hero under this unequal chance; but we laugh at the lover. Where there is a good purpoſe to anſwer, we find the thought alleviated. What was begun by treachery, we have no pain to ſee ended in contumely. They were the elegant pair who had met at Ranelagh, hurrying, though unſeen by themſelves, to the ſame goal where triumph and glory ſhew all their ſymbols in front; where the ſwift ſtep has no ſooner paſs'd it, but neglect, and raillery, and ſatire, with all their ugly forms, grin on the other ſide.

The following week gave notice of a jubilee, at the place where the amazed couple had met: it was impoſſible either of them could have been abſent from ſuch a rendezvouz on any occaſion; now it was ten thouſand times ſo, no opportunity could be ſo favourable for the meeting of two people who were determined to be acquainted, and who had no inclination that any body ſhould have the

merit

merit of introducing them to one another. Half the milliners and habit-makers in town were employ'd to dreſs out the fair Greek, according to the habit and manner of the country. The ſultan Celſus was all pomp and ſplendor. The glory of the Eaſt blaz'd on his turban; the horſe-tail quiver'd on its ſide, reflecting ten thouſand rainbows as the multiplicity of lights directed their rays towards it. The dignity of the Oriental majeſty was in his porte, and he mix'd among the gay aſſembly, not as one who was to make a part of it, but to be entertain'd by it. The moſt conſpicuous figure every where is that of Celſus; the Turk was ſoon diſcover'd. Lyce had too many ways of charming to loſe her prerogative in the maſk: they were known to every body; is it a wonder they were known to one another?

The ſultan appear'd, he threw his handkerchief at the feet of the fair Greek, and with unremitted porte he ſaw her take it up herſelf, amidſt a hundred bowing ſlaves, and throw it over her neck. He gave her his hand, ſhe rais'd it toward her lips and follow'd him. The eyes of every

every body were upon them; but ſecure in their own importance, and looking on the reſt of the world as creatures of a diſtinct and lower ſpecies, they walk'd, they courted, and they triumph'd in one another's eſteem; if not unobſerved, above obſerving that they were ſo. The lover begg'd to know from what part of heaven ſhe had fallen, that he had never met her 'till that inſtant. The lady accuſed her ſtars of cruelty, that the firſt of his ſex had not been known to her before. A thouſand things are permitted under theſe diſguiſes that could not be heard on other occaſions. The lovers, while they affected mutually not to know to whom they ſpoke, ſwore an inviolable league of amity and adoration; and while they affected to perſuade themſelves that they banter'd, convinced one another that no ſcene of their lives had ever been more in earneſt. Lyce did not diſtinguiſh that ſhe had loſt her whole train of lovers; Celſus was a man with whom no beau was enough the hero to enter the liſts of competition: while he talk'd with her ſhe could not miſs the flattery of a whole ſex: when ſhe was told ſhe had loſt it, ſhe reply'd ſhe had made an advantageous exchange.

change. Celſus was more the lover, more the flatterer, more the deceiver, than a whole ſex; and the lady made no miſtake in any part of the account, if it were not, that too ſecure in her own charms, ſhe did not diſcover that ſhe had made the ſacrifice to that which ſhe muſt alſo ſacrifice in its turn, after a very few days of adoration.

The aunt of Lyce, her only living relation, her guardian, her confidant, and her adviſer, tho' generally to little purpoſe, was with her at the maſquerade. The ſultan had, towards morning, deſcended ſo far from his imperial dignity to aſk her leave to viſit her. They were ſitting when he propoſed the requeſt, his miſtreſs on his right, and her attendant on his left. He firſt requeſted the permiſſion of the idol of his ſoul; ſhe bow'd, and told him it muſt be aſk'd on the other ſide: when he turn'd thither, the power of choice was all devolved where he had at firſt asked. Celſus, unuſed to be trifled with, grew uneaſy, and the lady piqued at his inſolence, but, unwilling to loſe him, told him he had permiſſion, if he could find the way. They parted,

parted, and the ſolitary ſultan, when he had led them to their coach, return'd among a ſeries of inferior beings; he could not profane the lips that had been lying ſo many hours to Lyce, by telling even truth to any other woman. He drank half a pint of Champaigne, muttering her name as he pour'd it down; and he threw himſelf into his chariot, and bad them carry him where they pleaſed.

If the indifference of Lelia had ſet her in an ill light with the lover, the warmth of mutual admiration, with which the divine Lyce had met the offer'd Flame, placed her ſtill lower than the compariſon of face. The night was ſpent in all that reſtleſs toſſing and tumbling, into which the fatigue of body throws many people after a maſquerade, but which the perturbation of mind in Celſus had amazingly increaſed. In the morning he ſent his card to hope they had no cold from the entertainment in the evening: he received their compliments, and an aſſurance that they were not there. He underſtood this as an invitation to the houſe: he ſent word he would do himſelf the honour to wait on

them in the evening, to beg their pardon for the ſtrange miſtake he had made in fancying they were; and he was not refuſed.

Here was a meeting different from the former. The lover, dazzled with the nearer view of thoſe charms whoſe effect he had been ſo ill able to bear at a diſtance, was too full of admiration to have power to expreſs it. To Celſus theſe ſilent ſtrokes of admiration were very common. None was ever a greater maſter of the ſublime in love, and, as Longinus ſays of the ſilence with which Homer makes Ajax turn away on his meeting the ſhade of Ulyſſes in Elyſium, he had found by the effect, that there was more ſublimity and eloquence in theſe ſilences than in any thing he could poſſibly have ſaid. What Celſus had been uſed to practice by way of artifice, was here reality. There is no diſputing that Lyce is greatly handſomer than any body of the age. Celſus's heart was of all men's the moſt ſuſceptible of impreſſions from beauty; and he, in earneſt, found, this piece one of the *Opera de ſtupire* of the Italians: he could only gaze upon it. The confuſion

of

of the lover was not unfavourable to the lady: it gave his face a new grace; it gave him additional power, additional charms; but it prevented his diſcovering the effect of them on the lady: a diſcovery it was by no means her intereſt that a man of Celſus's turn ſhould make.

It was well the aunt was preſent; where the rapture, the admiration, and the ſilence would have ended, it was not eaſy to ſay. She ſmiled upon the thunderſtruck lover, and pointed to a chair. 'Before I pre-'ſume to ſit,' ſaid the recovering Celſus, drawing all his breath to pronounce it, 'give me leave to execute the buſineſs of 'my viſit, and beg your pardon for the 'miſtake I made this morning.' The beauty ſmiled; the aunt look'd very grave, and directing her eye toward her niece, told him, ſhe had imagin'd he had a better pretence for his viſit. Celſus, in raptures, would have ſeiz'd the hand of his adorable miſtreſs, but it was drawn back: he look'd a thouſand compliments, while he told her he knew her aunt ſpoke the thoughts of her heart as well as her own; and call'd all the great and hand-ſome of paſt ages to witneſs, that if the

acquaintance, which he was in rapture to find he had begun, laſted till he gave occaſion to its being broke, it would be eternal. The lady laugh'd at his romantic imaginations; the aunt, who was always moderator on theſe occaſions, for 'tis fit there ſhould be one perſon who can condeſcend to have common ſenſe in a family, told him, that unleſs he took offence at the gaiety, which was inſeparable from her niece's diſpoſition, he never would find any thing but his own caprice to violate it: the lover very happily made the concluſion, that he was fix'd for ever.

This was a ſort of freedom to which the high, the diſtant Lyce had never been uſed; but love and death level all diſtinctions. Though there was ſomething in the manner and freedom of Celſus that hurt her pride, ſhe found enough of the agreeable to compenſate for it; ſhe was in no humour to loſe the ground ſhe had gained in her new conqueſt. She had ſeen enough of the world to know, that every human being has his ruling paſſion; that this paſſion governs not only all others, but the whole man; and that the

way

way to an abſolute ſovereignty is, the making this paſſion the guide to the ſeveral weakneſſes of the heart that is to be conquer'd. The ſettled purpoſe of Lyce was victory: ſhe indulg'd in the glorious thought; ſhe eſteem'd it worth purchaſing upon all conditions. When ſhe conſider'd the means, ſhe eaſily diſtinguiſhed this reigning paſſion in her new lover to be vanity, and ſhe determin'd to indulge it. From the reſerve, with which ſhe had at firſt received him, ſhe fell into a gay familiarity; from the diſtant looks, with which ſhe at firſt had met his eyes, condeſcenſion, affability, and even fondneſs, ſparkled in hers; from the ſtiff ſir, ſhe fell into the gentler epithets of inſolent, intolerable, bold creature; and her hand, inſtead of the diſtance with which it was withdrawn from his firſt attempt of familiarity, fell ſo in his way that his fingers could not be found. This was infinitely more rapture to the well-opinion'd Celſus than if he had found her kind. What would then, tho' he approv'd it, have been taken for cuſtom or temper, and ſuppoſed equally directed to all objects, now appear'd the effect of a conqueſt, the reſult of his

own powerful charms, and appropriated to his perſon.

He ſtaid till it was late; when he got up, Lyce was unwilling to believe it was ſo. He renew'd his viſit the next day, and he was receiv'd as the remembrance of the firſt directed. He could not hide his triumph: Lyce bluſh'd at her weakneſs; the aunt upbraided both. Celſus ſupp'd with them: he was invited to cards for the following evening, and the plan of the ſucceeding ſummer was laid down on the ladies part, with reference in all reſpects to the places to which he was deſtin'd; Celſus was the North, and to his courſe, be that bent whitherſoever it would, the compaſs that directed Lyce always pointed. It was morning before he left them: it was day-light before he got to bed. He could not ſleep for very tranſport, but other thoughts alſo kept him waking.

He had made the conqueſt, of that he was thoroughly aſſur'd; the buſineſs now was to employ it. With another man the honour of Lyce would have been the object of the attempt with Celſus. The

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reputation of having her in his power ſtood in its place. The way to the one was yet to be purſued through a thouſand perplexities and difficulties; to the other it lay open, and was ſhort and eaſy. He did not give up the firſt in the diſtant proſpect, but the laſt became the immediate object of his deſign. He wanted to ſhew the world his power; he was eager to boaſt his conqueſt; he laid the plan of treating the fond fool with ſome degree of reſerve the ſucceeding evening in public, and of ſhewing the world that woman in fetters, who had been uſed to lead mankind in them. Ranelagh was the place where the firſt attack had been made; Ranelagh is a place where the ſame ſet of polite people are always ſeen. Thoſe who had been witneſſes to the attack were the propereſt objects before whom to ſhew the victory, and the ſcene was fix'd for that place where they would be found again together. The card was diſpatch'd early in the morning to make the party, and Celſus employ'd the time, till the return of the meſſenger, in conſulting what dreſs ſhould have the honour of the triumph.

While conqueſt was ſo buſy on the part of Celſus, Lyce was not idle in the ſame kind of contemplations. She had been at ſome pains to fix her lover; ſhe had made more conceſſions than ſhe had ever done before. She found ſhe had ſufficiently fix'd him in his chains, and her pride was now to be ſatisfy'd for all the affronts it had receiv'd in her ſubmiſſions. She had ſpent as many hours in conſidering of the means to mortify her lover, as he had employ'd in the determining how he ſhould expoſe her. She ſaw him in a very different light from that in which he ſaw her; ſhe ſaw that as a ſerious affair, which to him appear'd a bagatelle; or if ſhe did not ſee it ſuch, ſhe determin'd to make it ſo. She ſaw the ſcheme of her lover, and ſhe deſpis'd, inſtead of hating him for it. She expected the attack, and ſhe was prepar'd to receive it. She had been told of his treatment to a multitude of women, who had been fond of him; and ſhe ſaw her own character doom'd to the ſame attempt; but ſhe alſo ſaw the manner in which it was to be guarded. While ſhe hated and deſpiſed the perfidy and vanity

of her lover, ſhe ſaw in him that which was worthy her eſteem, and on which ſhe beſtow'd it. She ſaw him a man of uncommon qualifications: ſhe ſaw him endow'd by nature with every power of pleaſing, and of rendering the woman who deſerv'd him happy: ſhe ſaw all theſe ſhoots of amiable qualities bury'd under the rank growth of a thouſand odious and offenſive weeds. She lov'd him; ſhe ſaw him like herſelf; ſhe ſaw not only his good qualities, but his bad ones too were like her own: ſhe even lov'd him for his faults; and, for the firſt time of her life, deſcended to the humble paths of reaſon. She ſaw his fortune equal to her expectations, his temper to her wiſhes; and form'd the wild, or the rational, plan, (call it, gentle reader, which the qualities of the two objects ſhall direct thee,) of getting the better of his faults and follies and her own, and ſitting down in earneſt to that eternal friendſhip which he had talk'd of in his firſt flights of adoration.

With ſuch different views did theſe two extraordinary people now look on one another. Lyce was on her guard againſt all his attacks, becauſe ſhe ex-

pected them all; on the contrary, her conduct muſt be a continued riddle to Celſus, becauſe founded on a plan too romantic to find a poſſiblity of entering into his conception, tho' it would not have been without its flattery to him if it could. The eaſe with which Celſus had arriv'd at the end of his deſigns, ſuch as they were, with all his miſtreſſes, was the reaſon why their power had been of ſo ſhort duration. Be the end what it will, when it is obtain'd there is a period to the purſuit. While ſomething is behind, we are ſure of the aſſiduity of the purſuer. The women of addreſs find this their ſcheme of managing thoſe who carry gallantry to a more eſſential point than uſually entered into the head of our beau: ſure to be deſpiſed as ſoon as they have given up all, they never will give up till they have ſecured all they want; and when they care no longer for the lover, grant him that which ought to bind him for ever to them.

Something on this plan, tho' very different in the means, was the caſe between our lovers. Lyce, determined to make a new kind of conqueſt of her hero, determined on new meaſures; and fixed upon

retaining

retaining the power ſhe had obtained, ſhe reſolved againſt the little conceſſions which ſhe knew would forfeit it. Such was the ſituation of her heart, ſuch the determinations of her thoughts, when the card of invitation was delivered to her. She ſtarted as ſhe read it. Her aunt laugh'd at her apprehenſions: but ſhe was reſolute in her opinion, though unable to convert that infidel to it. Eager as was the impatience with which the lover waited the billet that ſhould determine his triumph, he received one that by no means favoured his intentions. Lyce was moſt extremely obliged to him for the agreeable party he propoſed, but her whimſical ſtars had given her an irreſiſtible inclination to go to Richmond for a week. She found it impoſſible to reſiſt the impulſe, but if he would pay a viſit any day to the ſcene of her retirement, he would give new verdure to the trees; new odour to the flowers; and, but that was foreign to his concerns, he would give her new cauſe for contemplation.

What was a man of Celſus's eagerneſs and impatience, of Celſus's pride, and of Celſus's vanity, to think of this unex-

pected meſſage. At once flattered and mortify'd by it, he read it again; he ſtudied it. He put himſelf into the place of the coquette who wrote it. He did what perhaps no man, whoſe own diſpoſition approached leſs to that of the coquette, could have done. He threw himſelf into the true ſpirit of the writer, and he was maſter of every thing but the motive; that was too deep for all the reſearch of ſo giddy a brain. He ſaw an affected levity run through the whole card: he ſaw love under even that levity: he found the lady in earneſt in all the flight at the cloſe; and he diſtinguiſhed her to be ſerious, where a man, leſs conſcious of his own merit, would have conſtrued her into pure raillery. He was in the right in all; the lady loved him, ſhe wiſh'd him to follow her, and he determined that he would do ſo.

The coxcomb had through life prevailed over every other part of Celſus's character, nor was it dormant now. Among the things which he had found it impoſſible to do, the holding his tongue was always one. If he talked of matters of no concern, which he ought

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to have been ſilent about, there was no reſiſting the impulſe when the glory of ſelf was concerned. Impatient under the diſappointment of ſhewing her as his ſlave at Ranelagh, it was ſome pride, when every body was enquiring where ſhe was, to be the only perſon who ſhould be able to tell. Whoever aſked the queſtion Celſus gave the anſwer; and when people, who knew him, gave the cue to his vanity, by aſking him how he, of all men, came to be ſo much in Lyce's ſecrets, he would ſhake his head; and when preſſed farther, declare, that he was by appointment to follow her. Though Celſus was without rivals, he was not without thoſe who had inclination to be ſo. They who hated Lyce, envied a man, whom they alſo hated, the pride of being well with her; but with thoſe who had ſollicited her months, years in vain, who had given up their claim on the ſucceſs of Celſus, it was diſtraction and fury to ſee him ſucceed ſo in a week. People who cannot riſe to generous reſentment, will always find meaner revenge in their power. Celſus's golden dream was deſtined to vaniſh at the influence of one of theſe dirty antagoniſts. The

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riding-dreſs was on; the poſt-chaiſe was at the door; the ſervants attended; and Celſus got in. A fellow who had never dared any more to declare his paſſion to the lady than his reſentment to his rival, brib'd the poſt-boy to his purpoſes; and Celſus, wrapp'd up in the reverie of tranſport that he thought about to open into reality, found himſelf, at about half way of his journey, turned over into a gravel pit by the breaking of one of the axle-trees.

The boy, who had not been able to provide ſo well for his own ſafety as he imagined, received ſome hurt. As to Celſus, he found himſelf fixed to the place by the croſs direction in which the machine had fallen; and, till taken out with great difficulty, did not conceive that his left arm, which had been in intolerable pain all the time that he lay upon it, was broken. The care he ordered to be taken of the poſt-boy produced a confeſſion of the unſuſpected truth. The author of the miſchief juſt obtained notice of the diſcovery to eſcape as the officers were preparing to apprehend him. It was neceſſary for Celſus to ex-

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plain to the ladies the occaſion of his not waiting on them. The accident really gave Lyce pain; and tho' it robb'd him of her company, it occaſioned ſeveral letters of condolance, in which ſhe very fairly and honeſtly confeſs'd her ſentiments and ſpoke her heart, but in language thrown into ſuch a form of affectation and raillery on herſelf, that it would have been eaſy for any body but Celſus to have ſuppoſed it banter. It was impoſſible for her to ſleep till ſhe heard he was out of danger. She ſent expreſſes every day, becauſe his health was not only the deareſt of all concerns to her, but he had in ſome degree been hurt on her account. She could not be eaſy till ſhe was aſſur'd that his tenderneſs for her did not make him repreſent his caſe to her as leſs dangerous than it was. Theſe, and a number of other declarations of a like kind, while they expreſſed her real heart, were couch'd in ſuch a form that they appear'd too much for earneſt; and the lady knew it would be eaſy to get off from all the engagements they ſhould ſeem to lay her under, by declaring and appealing to common ſenſe and reaſon that they were banter.

Celſus

Celſus ſaw the great ſource of all theſe civilities; he ſaw the drift and tendency; he ſaw the meditated occaſion. He fancy'd the lady truly lov'd him, he found ſhe was in earneſt to engage him deeply; and at the ſame time he ſaw ſhe was leaving herſelf all the room in the world for excuſe. He ſaw his part very obviouſly: he anſwered in a ſtrain of the ſame kind. He told her his life had not before been valuable to him, but that now it was her concern it was worth his care: he ſaid ſhe covered him with confuſion when ſhe declar'd her paſſion ſo generouſly, ſo freely, and ſo ſeriouſly: he begg'd, as the certain remedy for pain from his hurt, that ſhe would give him that conſolation which ſuch aſſurances, delivered in ſuch perfect earneſt, muſt inſpire: and he concluded, that when he ſhould ſee her, not when his ſurgeons ſhould declare it, would be the time he ſhould find himſelf recover'd.

Celſus did not deceive himſelf in his ſcheme. By this affected air of raillery, he led her into more and more open declarations. She was happy in an opportunity

tunity of pouring out all her heart, undiſcover'd as it were, even by the perſon to whom ſhe wrote: ſhe expreſſed herſelf in more and more warmth; and had at length exhauſted every ſource of rhetoric in painting what ſhe felt, without intent that one ſyllable of it ſhould bind her farther than her own glad inclinations hereafter ſhould pleaſe. She who knew her own heart under the diſguiſe of all this raillery, ſaw his in all his anſwers: the diſguiſe was too thin to cheat one practiſed in the ſame deceit. They perfectly underſtood one another's hearts. Celſus, tho' the lady had no gueſs at his intent in all he was about, was perfectly in the ſecret of hers.

Lyce came to town; Celſus recover'd; they viſited, and the converſation was kept up as the epiſtolary correſpondence had begun it. There are a thouſand things a lady can ſay between jeſt and earneſt, which, though ſhe ever ſo much wiſh'd them out, ſhe could not ſpeak in any other ſituation: all this advantage was her's, and ſhe employ'd it. Celſus ſaw the effect, and he ſaw the cauſe. The lady's declaration of a paſſion, would have

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anſwer'd all his purpoſes as well as if ſhe had one; ſo that the reality was almoſt a ſupernumerary conſideration. He perſiſted in the plan of ſhewing the world his conqueſt.

The fancy of Celſus had been a thouſand times touch'd before; but his heart, tho' in compliance with the eſtabliſh'd cuſtom of the world, the hiſtorian has ſometimes uſed the word, never: he ſaw ſomething in Lyce ſo extremely like that object which had hitherto engag'd all his attention, all his love, and all his admiration, ſo like himſelf, that it was not in his nature to refuſe her a place in his eſteem. This was a rank no woman had before held in his breaſt,— it was a place to which better qualifications, if of any other kind, would have pleaded their title in vain. From eſteem, the tranſition was quick to affection; and as Lyce had ſet out with declaring what were her real thoughts, under a pretence of their being no more than raillery, Celſus found that what he had ſaid in abſolute and real raillery was growing apace to earneſt. Even love could not prevail over his ambition: the character of the perſon

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who was dear, and who became every day more dear to him, was leſs ſacred than his love of triumph; he renew'd his attack upon the old ſcheme; what he had in ſo very unlucky an hour attempted by writing before the ladies had made their expedition; what he had never expected to have been the cauſe of that expedition, he renew'd in converſation; he propoſed a party to one of the public places. The aunt, who had no conception of the deſign, ſaid yes: Lyce, who ſaw thro' it, pretended an engagement. The next time he propoſed it, lady ſomebody's rout prevented it; on the third ſhe was engaged a long time beforehand; and the fourth made the talk of another journey into the country. Celſus was earneſt, Lyce was reſolute, the aunt thought them both mad; but they underſtood one another, though not ſo perfectly as to know how fully they did ſo. Celſus grew out of humour, Lyce ſmil'd at his pettiſhneſs. He went away gravely, and ſhe curtſied from the head of the ſtairs. She aſk'd when they ſhould ſee him again, and he reply'd never; ſhe bid him goodbye with a happily affected indifference, and they parted without a

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ſtep towards a conceſſion on either ſide. In half an hour Celſus's footman came ſweating with a letter. He upbraided her with coquettry, inconſtancy, and even perfidy; he was angry, he was proud; he told her the lady who was aſham'd of him for an acquaintance, ſhould never have him as a friend; he ſpoke feelingly, though with reſentment, of the ſituation of his own heart; and accuſed her very ſeverely of trifling with a paſſion that ſhe had no right to deſpiſe.

Lyce ſaw he was in earneſt; ſhe was convinced ſhe had made the conqueſt which ſhe meditated; but the difficulty was to keep it. Favourable as her opinion was of her own charms, ſhe did not imagine they had done an execution here of which all others had failed; and conſcious that many had been forſaken, ſhe dreaded the taking her turn in the fortune. The part ſhe had to act was as difficult as it was important. Another woman would have avow'd her own inclination to have preſerved that of the man ſhe loved, and who had aſſur'd her of his; but Lyce knew her own heart too well to ſuppoſe this would have

effect

effect on his. It was on this principle alone, perhaps, that theſe two ſtrange people found the way to one another's affections; their hearts were perfectly alike, and each judg'd by what would pleaſe their own, and did not divine amiſs as to what would charm or what would ſecure the other.

There is a happy boldneſs in Lyce which commands things that all the addreſs in the world would attempt in vain under the conduct of timidity. Lyce, who knew how often ſhe had been won by things that would have loſt another, concluded what would have effect on Celſus. She wrote him a moſt ſerious refuſal: ſhe was aſtoniſh'd that a man who knew the world as he did, could miſtake raillery, innocent and unmeaning as hers, for paſſion. She call'd heaven and earth to witneſs that ſhe had always look'd upon Celſus with eyes of approbation; nay, to acknowledge the truth, of admiration. She had never had one thought of love; that was a paſſion, ſhe declar'd, that had its origin not from the underſtanding, but the heart; the offſpring of fancy, not of choice. She apologiz'd

for

for the raillery which ſhe was unhappy to find he had miſtaken for earneſt; was very ſevere upon the levity of her own temper; promis'd it ſhould be a leſſon to her for ever after; and concluded with begging that he would pardon her fault, and accept of what was in her power, and what it would be injuſtice and ingratitude not to give him, her friendſhip and eſteem. Celſus now ſaw he was belov'd: he ſaw he was in love: he found the method which had conquer'd his own heart, and he determin'd to employ the ſame artillery againſt that of his fair enemy. He wrote to her ſeverely; he gave her as much as ſhe allow'd him, his eſteem and approbation; he confeſs'd that he was tempted to allow her more, his love; but that he could not ſtoop to offer that again when it had been refuſed. Too angry to meet, they carry'd on this ſtrange courtſhip by letter; footmen might be ſeen on the wing, from one houſe to the other, the whole day, the whole week; and if Celſus pretended to get up at midnight to write the letter which he had told his ſervant at what time to deliver when he gave it him in the afternoon, Lyce was

ſure to write to him the next morning from that toilette at which his inſolence and miſrepreſentations had kept her ſince the evening before.

A correſpondence of this ſpecies was perhaps never carried on before between two people of great wit, great abilities, and infinite coquettry, playing againſt one another thoſe batteries, by which they had before ſubdued both the ſexes. Too diffident to depend on their merit, though both tolerably aſſur'd of its importance, they attempted to gain one another by their wit and their addreſs: both were heartily in love; both knew the conqueſt was made as they intended; but each, cautious of their own inconſtancy, dreaded that of the other. 'Tis thus when gameſters, for want of bubbles, play with one another: Celſus ſaw Lyce poſſeſs'd of all thoſe charms that could recommend a woman to him; Lyce ſaw in Celſus all that ſhe had eſtabliſh'd as agreeable in man. They lov'd, and they dreaded one another. The correſpondence they had fallen into on this little quarrel anſwer'd both their purpoſes better than the moſt perfect intimacy could have done;

done; it gave them power of exerting all their talents to charm; it gave them time to premeditate every ſtep in ſo important an affair. Lyce ſaw in Celſus a man whom nothing but ſeverity and reſerve could detain. Celſus ſaw in Lyce a woman who was only to be won by deſpair; who, while ſhe doated on him, while ſhe did not affect to hide that dotage, would not give him the leaſt room to hope. The ſcheme was a ſtrange one, but it anſwer'd all its purpoſes. It perfected that conqueſt on both parts, which nothing elſe could have made; and there was a time when the two people, fondeſt of one another that ever the world produced, were ſecure of one another.

The painters have a phraſe, *manum de tabula*, which reminds them when they ſhould have done: to take off the hand from the picture, to lay down the pencil, is a material law of their art which few of them know how to come up to, and many a glorious picture loſes all its ſpirit in the overfiniſhing. 'Tis not only painters who want to be more than well, the lovers can no more than they know when to drop the curtain.

There

There was a time when Lyce had only to comply, and ſhe was ſure of her intentions. Lyce's happineſs depended more on the ſucceſs of this court-ſhip than that of Celſus; for when women are in love, they are always more ſo than the men. Celſus, after one of his letters, in which he had declar'd his utter, his unalterable deſpair; in which he had given up all pretenſions to love, and and claim'd her cold and honeſt friend-ſhip, knock'd at the door to purſue his pretenſions. This was the moment Lyce ſhould have ſeiz'd; but who is always wiſe? Plum'd with the flattery of her perfect conqueſt, ſhe refus'd him admittance. He knew ſhe was at home; his pride was too much for the affront; he mutter'd out a good-bye to you in earneſt; and, after a pauſe of two minutes, to conſider where the handſomeſt woman of his acquaintance liv'd, he gave the word for Fulvia's.

He enter'd, with an uncommon pleaſantry in his countenance, tho' it was like the uncommon beauty of ſome ladies, but ſkin deep. He fell into the chat of the day with great ſpirit. The world

was not a ſtranger to his paſſion for the divine Lyce; and the firſt ceſſation, on his part, gave an opportunity of calling up the topick. He heard all the fine things they had to ſay upon the ſubject; he join'd, with an air of raillery, in all their commendations of her wit, her beauty, her affability; and when he ſaw they were inclin'd to believe him in earneſt, he ran out as wildly on the ſubject of beauties, to which ſhe had no claim. 'You 'banter us,' ſaid the amiable Fulvia; Celſus ſtar'd; and with a happy Naivette of aſpect, as the French expreſs that which is inexpreſſible in our language, aſk'd, 'Why have not you been bantering me?' People were ſurpriz'd, and a converſation was introduced, in which Celſus, with the eaſieſt air imaginable, talk'd of Lyce as a vain girl that had interpreted common civility into courtſhip, and had underſtood all the civil things he ſaid of her ſex as meant immediately of herſelf. He convinced them, in a few moments, that he never had any, the ſlighteſt, real paſſion for her; and concluded with a gaiety of aſpect, which, as it was not common to him, took place the more when he put it on, that if there was a woman in

the

the world, of whom he ſeriouſly thought better than the reſt of her ſex, it was ſhe to whom he now addreſs'd the confeſſion.

Fulvia was handſome enough to bear out the compliment: ſhe was too much flatter'd with the pride of it not to feel it ſtrongly. They paſs'd the evening very agreeably, and Celſus found opportunity to whiſper, as he was going, 'I 'don't know how I have been led into 'a confeſſion, which I am very glad that 'I have made to you; will you give me 'leave to talk farther about it to-mor-'row?' The lady bluſh'd aſſent. She told him, ſhe knew all this was raillery, but he might continue it as long as he pleaſed. She receiv'd him the next day alone: he preſs'd his ſuit, and it was too good, as well as too agreeable an offer to be refus'd, or even treated with coldneſs. What Lycé had loſt by coquettry, Fulvia obtain'd by prudenee. She ſaw one of the moſt amiable men in the world, ſo her opinion repreſented him with all his faults, at her feet; ſhe ſaw an offer, in point of fortune, at leaſt as conſiderable as ſhe could expect; ſhe look'd upon the

innumerable foibles of his life as the flights of youth and gaiety, and as things that marriage would put a final period to; ſhe religiouſly believ'd the proverb, which promiſes ſo much in the reform'd rake; ſhe could not doubt but the ſame qualities, which had commanded his attention, would preſerve it, and would wean him from his follies; ſhe ſaw the pride of the reformation of ſo conſpicuous a rake; ſhe ſaw the conſequences of that reformation in the moſt favourable light; and it was not the very leaſt of her ſources of pride, that a whole ſex would envy her.

Lyce, at firſt ignorant of this new engagement, and afterwards conſtruing it into that artifice herſelf had a thouſand times practiſed, of raiſing jealouſy when ſhe wanted to kindle or to receive love, was perfectly eaſy at the alarm. She ſaw him gallant Fulvia in public; ſhe heard every body talk of his honourable addreſſes to her; but ſhe thought ſhe ſaw the depth of the poor artifice, and ſhe affected to deſpiſe what ſhe only affected to underſtand. Dupe to her own ſchemes, ſhe perſiſted in the plan of indifference

difference with which ſhe had ſet out. Her heart burn'd for Celſus; but ſhe determin'd to purſue the paths, which not this honeſt inclination, but a falſe prudence had ſuggeſted to her. She was conſcious that all this was owing to her refuſing to ſee him; but, too high in the opinion of her own power, ſhe ſuppoſed ſhe could call him back with a ſmile, or command him from his new object with the motion of a finger. The aunt adviſ'd her to write to him, but ſhe had never been in the ſecret of her conduct: Lyce thought all depended on her reſolution. She expected that her ſilence would at laſt conquer his obſtinacy; ſhe expected every hour a ſubmiſſive card from the man ſhe had abus'd. Such are the modeſt expectations of all the women in the world. She thought his purpoſes, which ſhe had refus'd to comply with, and had thence preſerv'd him, had been all anſwer'd in Fulvia, and that therefore ſhe had loſt him: ſhe had no idea of his having a deſign upon any woman except herſelf that tended to any thing farther than ſhewing that he was well with her in public; and ſhe ſaw that had been anſwer'd with the new

miſtreſs, and that therefore there was an end of the attachment. She had opinion enough of her own charms to look on Fulvia as a good foil; ſhe feign'd the return of the inconſtant with new adoration, and ſhe continu'd the expectation of the card which ſhould bring notice of his viſits, till ſhe receiv'd one, with the compliments of his wife, and the offers of an acquaintance.

This inſult was too much: the aſtoniſhment was ſcarce leſs than the ſorrow. The place where a rival triumph'd was no ſtage for Lyce to play any farther part upon. She retir'd. Wrinkles came on before ſhe would believe the glaſs that told her ſo. The remembrance of the offers which ſhe had refus'd, gave her a contempt for thoſe which were now made to her, greater than could be expreſs'd; ſhe lock'd herſelf up; ſtudy'd receipts in phyſic and cookery; went to church; commenced doctreſs of the country; and, after an adoration of ten years from the men, became the deity of the old women; nor was remember'd as the beauty that had made ſo many conqueſts, without being able to keep one.

## HISTORY XVI.

IN the next houſe to the ill-fated Lyce, at the time when the flattering proſpect of the heart of Celſus had preſented itſelf, liv'd the gay, the fluttering, the deſigning Leſbia; qualities which do not often meet in the ſame breaſt, were combin'd in her's. She had a ſmall fortune, but an unbounded ambition. She was handſome, for without that a woman has hardly a claim to notice, hardly a right to thoſe faults which render people conſpicuous. Leſbia could not bear that any body ſhould be thought more agreeable; nor was ſhe patient that any woman ſhould be ſuppoſed taller or richer than herſelf. She would be covered with crimſon, if you nam'd a fine woman, expreſſing by that term the diſtinction from the pretty, which was the ſpecies of beauty to which ſhe had claim: ſhe would leave a maſquerade if it was obſerved that miſs T— danced better than any body elſe; and ſhe would cry if ſhe ſaw a dutcheſs finer.

Such was that Leſbia, who had built, on her perſon and accompliſhments, the expectation of riſing to that eminence to which ſhe was not born; who, while people inferior, in point even of fortune, flatter'd her with the ideas of having all the world at her command, expected the ſame acknowledgments from thoſe who could raiſe her to that eminence ſhe had heard her due, and on whoſe taſte ſhe built the proſpect. The fortune of her neighbour, and her intimate Lyce, had ſet her in a very ſuperior rank, and had given her rational expectations of what it was chimera and caſtle-building for the other to think of. Every woman is fond of a confidant of her own ſex, eſpecially if ſhe can find one who is of her own turn and diſpoſition. The neighbours were daily viſiters, and Leſbia was ſo much a Lyce at heart and inclination, that they commenced an intimacy which would admit of no reſerve.

It was not till Leſbia was four-and-twenty, till ſhe had ſeen the ill ſucceſs of ſo many ſchemes of her fair friend, that ſhe began to be faint in her expectations,

which

which ſhe had before entertained in ſo ſanguine a manner. Another year, among the various adventures with which the life of Lyce was crowded, brought that of Celſus; there could be no rational diſpute of the ſucceſs of this, to her who was intruſted with the ſecret. She ſaw it as a certainty: ſhe ſaw the diſappointment of it: ſhe ſaw the retirement of Lyce in the conſequences. The proſpect was horrid; and it approached with a formidable ſwiftneſs. Perhaps apprehenſion increaſed its terrors; but it was evident, that ſhe had ſeen a woman, whom even partiality to ſelf muſt acknowledge as agreeable, whoſe fortune was beyond all compariſon greater; whom the opinion of the world ſet very high, and whom her own opinion had ſet yet higher, thrown from the pinacle of the moſt rational expectation, neglected and ſent by neceſſity into the country. It was unavoidable to carry the obſervation lower. The caprice of man appeared no longer a foundation on which to build any plan of happineſs. Leſbia ſaw herſelf under the ſame fate with Lyce; but with infinite additional circumſtances of terror. She had found it impoſſible to anſwer her

expectations from the intereſt of her fortune; ſhe had dipp'd too deeply into the principal. She ſaw the family, whoſe table had in a great meaſure taken off the expences of hers, diſſolved. She ſaw herſelf in the ſituation of all who have ſet themſelves above their proper place, ſinking into one beneath it. She confeſs'd the bloom of youth was vaniſh'd; ſhe remember'd that ſhe had been deceived by all the expectations ſhe had form'd when ſhe had more beauty and apparent affluence to ſupport them. She remember'd the diſappointment of her friend, who had real affluence, with all the other advantages ſhe had to boaſt; and ſhe began to give herſelf up as more loſt than it was poſſible for her to have conceived. The appearance of fortune is neceſſary to the acquiring it; the whole world find it ſo, from the tradeſman behind his counter to the beauty at the ridotto. The loſs of her uſeful acquaintance, Lyce, had taken from her the opportunity but of this appearance. She had been invited by her to ſhare the tranquil pleaſures of retirement; but that proſpect was too black; that was giving up even the hope, the very poſ-

ſibility

ſibility of ſucceeding in any of her ſchemes.

She was deſpairing one morning over her chocolate; ruminating on the various means of death, the garter, the Thames, and ratſbane; ſometimes meditating a letter of contrition to Lyce, and pleading to be indulg'd in the favour ſhe had fooliſhly declin'd; and ſometimes preferring death to ſuch a ſituation. Her reverie was terminated by the entrance of her maid, who was charged with a billet, under the ſtricteſt commands of delivering it immediately to her lady.

Leſbia had been at the baroneſs's route the evening before, and here was the notice of a conqueſt. She open'd it with trembling hands. She read it twenty times before ſhe would believe her eyes: ſhe was ſhock'd at the name which ſhe ſaw at the bottom; but the purport of it was too important to be neglected.

" IF you conſulted your glaſs, madam,
" laſt night, you will not wonder
" why a man, who has always preferr'd
" you to your whole ſex, can be no

" longer ſilent on that ſubject. If I
" offend, charge it upon thoſe charms
" which I have always found it difficult,
" which I now find it impoſſible to re-
" ſiſt. If there be any pretenſions in the
" reach of a perſon of my fortune, I ſhall
" be happier than any thing human ever
" yet has been; but this is not a ſubject
" for a card. I beg, madam, you will
" pay that regard, at leaſt, to a man
" who is miſerable 'till he ſees you, to
" give him an opportunity of pleading
" what he fears will be a looſing cauſe,
" and who is, with all poſſible reſpect,

" MADAM,

" Your moſt devoted Servant,

" E. BRAGG."

An offer from a profeſs'd gameſter, from an acknowledg'd ſharper, was an inſult that at another time would have call'd up all the fire of the haughty Leſbia's reſentment: the ambiguous terms in which it was expreſs'd would have alarm'd her more, and call'd up a double fury at another time; but there are fortunate moments, and chance had given one of them to Bragg. The lady, who had juſt

given

given up herſelf for loſt, ſnatch'd at any twig to ſave her; ſhe thought, at leaſt, it was not unworthy a more mature conſideration than ſhe could give it while a meſſenger waited; and ſhe ſat down to write what ſhould give her an hour or two for thought, without tying her down to any conſiderations.

" THE ſtyle of your romantic card
" ſurpriſes me. I beg to be ho-
" nour'd with a more full explanation of
" its meaning; you will find admittance
" here in the afternoon, and I ſhall be-
" lieve you the more in earneſt if you
" come early."

Bragg, who was practis'd in the arts of the world, was not ſatisfy'd that the lady did not banter him in this: he had no reaſon to be diſſatisfied however, with the ſtyle in which, be it what it would, it was deliver'd. He ſpent the morning in reading love verſes, the afternoon in dreſſing, and half an hour before the accuſtom'd time of an evening viſit, he knock'd at the door.

Bragg

Bragg was at this time a man of between forty and fifty; he had been bred to the mercantile profeſſion, and ſet out with a clear head and a maſterly knowledge in accounts: he had been commiſſion'd to receive a conſiderable ſum: the gentleman, with the care of whoſe affairs he was entruſted, was in the country. He fell in love with one of thoſe deſtructive creatures who are the contempt of the people who have ſeen the world; but the deſtroyers of thoſe who fall in their way without that knowledge. The expence of an intrigue of this kind was not to be anſwer'd from his ſalary, or from the allowance of his relations. The abſence of the merchant doubly favour'd the plan; time and money, the two great requiſites, were in his power, though he had not a property in either. He neglected all concerns for the company of this creature; he ſupply'd all her wants from the caſh he had in his care. She ſaw there was a fund, and ſhe determin'd to draw as long as it would anſwer; —it was not her buſineſs to enquire how he became able to anſwer her demands; while he comply'd with them, all her purpoſes were

were ſerved. She was cloathed in the utmoſt extravagance; they lived at more expence than people of quality; and the lady was arreſted for ſome imaginary debt every time ſhe appear'd in public with him. The bailiffs had their guinea of civility, and the lady, in about five weeks, had prepar'd againſt a bad day, by a reſerve of between ſeven and eight hundred pounds.

Mr. Bragg never ſeem'd to know that money was a thing of any value; and the lady, who was naturally much of his turn, was ingenious in the ways of getting rid of it. Their courſe of life was the prettieſt in the world. It was ſummer; bed was diſagreeable after about one at noon; a hir'd equipage was by that time at the door, and the happy pair drove to ſome garden at about three or four miles from town, where they eat from the trees, and paid the people's own price for what was pack'd up for the repaſt of after dinner. If the weather would not permit this, they were content to ſit down at the Pine-Apple, and eat a dozen or two of nutmeg-peaches, at a ſhilling a mouthful, and would make the repa-

preparation for the desert there. Dinner was always at the lady's lodgings; because it was easy to oblige the people of the house, by leaving enough of every thing dress'd, for themselves and their acquaintance, after it went from table. People in this lower station cannot be acquainted with pine-apples and ortolans at their own expence; and how are the benefits of nature to be render'd universal, if folks do not take this generous compassion on those beneath them?

From dinner the tete a tete proceeded regularly to Ranelagh, where, as it was a part of the œconomy of the day to drink tea, a box was always kept for them during the season; after sauntering two hours there, they return'd to town, and sat down at the King's-Arms to supper.

This was the life of the illustrious pair, whose servants eat pheasants, and drank burgundy. This, with the expence of dress on both parts, with the hours of generosity in which the lover threw his purse into the lap of the gay fair, and with the imaginary debts he paid, and

acts

acts of generoſity he was led into in favour of one or other of her unhappy acquaintance, placed the account with his maſter in ſuch a light, that it was not his buſineſs to look into it. The proſpect was melancholy; the miſchief already irreparable, and what ſignify'd therefore that he added to it by new extravagances: it was but a little while he could live in this manner, and it was beſt to do it nobly.

The poſt brought news of the merchant's being ſet out on his return: the youth ſaw his deſtruction, and his attachment to the creature who had cauſed it, would not let him fly it. He had heard of the fortunes made in a ſingle night by gaming; he put in his pocket-book a thouſand pounds in notes; he ſat down to play; he ſtak'd high; he was deſperate; he ſtripp'd the table: by five in the morning he found himſelf poſſeſs'd of enough to replace all he had laviſh'd. He had the prudence to retire to his maſter's, not to his miſtreſs's; he ſaw the ruin he had eſcap'd; he determin'd againſt ruſhing into new deſtruction; he ſpent the intermediate time in

ſettling

ſettling the accounts in the beſt order he could, and, at the return of the merchant, if he could not give him quite ſo good an account of his time as might have been expected, the principal point was as it ſhould be. He was rebuk'd for being idle, but he was lov'd for being honeſt; and from that time had the character of one in whom it was ſafe to confide in the moſt important of all conſiderations.

High in the favour of his maſter, and in the eſteem of his fellow citizens, mr. Bragg liv'd in reputation a year or two. He had declar'd his reſolutions to his miſtreſs; and as he had given her his reaſons, ſhe was very ready to acquieſce. If ſhe grudg'd the ill ſucceſs of miſſing her ſhare in the laſt piece of fortune, ſhe congratulated with herſelf on the ſecurity of what ſhe poſſeſs'd; and ſhe was not without pleaſure in the thought of her lover's having eſcap'd a diſcovery, as the ſituation into which this unexpected good fortune had thrown him render'd him yet able (on an emergence) to be of uſe to her.

Such

Such were the ſentiments of the good-natur'd, the grateful, and the pious miſtreſs. Bragg, on his part, found great ſatisfaction, when, from his preſent ſecurity, he look'd back upon his danger: he ſoon recover'd the trip he had made, in regard to his aſſiduity. He was recommended into an opulent family, and his relations were contributing to make him a fortune, though not anſwerable to that of the lady who was ſpoke of for him, yet ſuch as might be accepted, without the vaſt diſproportion which, at firſt, had appear'd between them.

The generoſity of his relations, and the condeſcenſion of her's, brought the affair into a very probable ſituation: his induſtry and ſobriety, for he had perfectly reform'd, recommended him, and the lady lov'd him. They were publickly talk'd of as people to be marry'd to one another: he attended her to and from church; he ſupp'd with her at her relations; and he had the honour to be her partner at all the city balls. The family propoſed a party at Vauxhall; it was not mr. Bragg's buſineſs to make objections: he

he look'd upon being ſeen with the lady as one of the ways of ſecuring her: he attended them, and was priding himſelf in the ſucceſs of his pretenſions; preſſing the lady's hand, and recommending to her imitation the tenderneſs of Gentle Shepherd, warbled from the throat of mr. Lowe, when the object of his former adoration, the mercenary creature who had involved him in all his difficulties, appear'd juſt oppoſite to them. Her eyes were fix'd upon the youth, and his turn'd upon the ground, it was too obvious not to be remark'd. The father, the aunt, the lady, all call'd for an explanation. The creature, who had occaſion'd the confuſion, was not one of thoſe whoſe profeſſion is written in their faces, or ſhews itſelf in their dreſs: ſhe was of the upper claſs; and it was no wonder that the ſober family, who could not know her, entertain'd no ſuſpicion of what ſhe was.

Bragg was reduc'd to a thouſand ſhifts to give ſome colour to the appearance: it was in vain for him to pretend ignorance, or even unconcern. His character would not let him be ſuſpected of immorality;

morality; but a worſe charge, that of paying his addreſſes to another woman; for it was plain the ſtranger was no indifferent perſon, at the ſame time that he was courting the lady whom he attended, blacken'd him to a very heavy degree in their opinion. He was glad to think upon his pillow on the excuſe he ſhould make for the adventure: he determin'd, at the firſt thought, to have no more to do with the perſon, whom he now doubly hated, as the authoreſs of the firſt deſtruction, out of which he had eſcap'd by mira.le, and as one who was now plunging him into a ſecond; he had laid together a tolerable ſtory; he had concerted every ſyllable of the letter, in which he was to deliver it to the father of the lady; he was getting up to write it, when he was told that a gentleman at the next tavern deſir'd to ſpeak with him. It was eaſy for him to gueſs that this was the father of his miſtreſs: he was vex'd at not having an opportunity of telling his ſtory as he could have done by letter, out of the reach of interruption; he recollected the moſt material circumſtances, and he was arranging them in his memory all the way he went. What

was his aſtoniſhment, on entering the room, to find the woman whoſe appearance had been ſo fatal to him! He would have gone, but ſhe would not ſuffer it; ſhe burſt into tears; ſhe hung upon his arm, and ſhe begg'd only to be heard.

Miſtreſſes of diſſimulation, they ſtudy it as a trade; they know, by experience, all the avenues to the human heart: Bragg's was very tender, and it wanted the great guard, experience. He liſten'd to the deceiver; he felt all his tenderneſs returning upon him; he indulg'd it; and he became again her captive. It was not a time at which he could be long abſent: they parted under promiſe of meeting again in the evening. The blinded youth, though he ſaw ruin before him, plung'd into it. Inſtead of making any excuſe to the family in which he was engag'd, he confeſs'd a former attachment; and while he attempted, in ſome degree at leaſt, to juſtify his perfidy, pretended that the fortune of this lady was as much ſuperior to that of his later flame, as his engagements were more binding.

From

From this moment he found himſelf deſpiſed by all who had reſpected him; only the moſt injur'd perſon, the lady whom he had forſaken, ſpoke of him with tenderneſs.

It was impoſſible for the youth to attend to buſineſs under the attachment he had now made with this artful, this deſtructive creature. He grew idle, and his maſter peeviſh. The acquaintance was ſuſpected. The good man had the induſtry to trace out her hiſtory, and as ſoon as he knew it, he call'd for an account of his caſh. The expence was not to be ſupported otherwiſe than by the former means; there was a deficiency of ſeveral hundred pounds. The maſter ſtood aghaſt; the youth appear'd unmov'd; he call'd it a miſtake of ſome kind in the calculation, and bore it off with ſo good a grace, that the merchant was pacify'd, and was ſatisfy'd with his promiſe of making it up ſome way or other to his ſatisfaction the next morning.

Of the money that was miſſing a very conſiderable part was at that time in the youth's

youth's pocket; not ſpent, but put in readineſs for ſucceeding expences. Reaſon pleaded for the abjuring a cauſe ſo ſoon again threatening him with deſtruction: he was at one time in a mind to refund what he had yet remaining, to confeſs his error, to engage in a reſolution of amendment, and obtain of his relations the remainder of his debt to his maſter: he ſaw his error pardonable; he ſaw the perſons with whom he was concerned of a diſpoſition to forgive; he ſaw the young lady whom he both lov'd and eſteemed, tho' the wild indulgences of his appetites had carry'd him from her to another, wretched for him. He came to the reſolve of throwing himſelf, with all his faults confeſs'd, at her feet; of renewing his pretenſions with his life and manners; he doubted not, nor had he need to doubt, that he ſhould be received.

One only conſideration pleaded againſt all this prudent ſubmiſſion. Pride, of which he had no little ſhare, declared againſt it. The reſource of the gaming table was ſtill untry'd, and the flattering remembrance of his paſt ſucceſs engaged

him

him in the repetition of the trial. There are people born fortunate, and their good fate, like the ill of ſome others, purſues them thro' every circumſtance and every period. He ventur'd deep, as he had done before; and he won as he had won before. In the morning he returned. His ſucceſs had given him a new turn of mind. He no more conſidered the diſtreſſes out of which he had juſt been relieved by a ſecond miracle; but, full of his independence, he payed in the ſum that was wanting, ſpoke haughtily to his maſter for ſuſpecting his honour, and told him he would not ſtay another hour under the ſame roof with him.

It was now, for the firſt time, that he avowedly took the creature who had deluded, him into his protection. He had lodgings in Pall-mall, and the lady ſat at the head of the table. He dreſſed like the people of folly and faſhion, and the city was no more remembered. Hazard appeared a ſhorter way to riches than all ſpecies of merchandize; and he never doubted continuing, as he had ſet out, the favourite of fortune.

Thoſe who play all the game (as the phraſe expreſſes it) are pretty ſure of winning; but even themſelves obſerve there is no betting againſt ſome people's luck. Bragg continued to play, and tho' he was not always ſo ſucceſsful as at firſt, he continued to win. The people, whoſe addreſs had a right to advantage, courted his fortune: they bartered with him their ſecrets for his luck, and all profited of it. There is ſomething in thoſe runs of fortune, which, tho' it ſeems idle to depend upon, yet there is no diſputing as to its ſucceſs. Theſe viſit ſome men only by fits and at intervals, Bragg was one of thoſe whom they attend for life. He was the perſon who, in games of chance, made all the betts of the party; the joint-ſtock increaſed amazingly under his hands; and what chance had before flattered him with the expectations of, the ſkill, not to give it a worſe name, of the people with whom he was now link'd, made a certainty.

All young gameſters, when they have ſucceſs, are extravagant. Among the principles of the art, Bragg receiv'd many

leſſon

leſſons of œconomy. His miſtreſs was his only capital expence, but ſhe was equal to a thouſand others. She plundered him of every thing he won; ſhe made him intrench upon the common ſtock; he could not make up the account, and he was diſcarded from the fraternity.

From this time a ſucceſſion of varied fortune attended him. In his chariot, and in the depths of a priſon; glittering in embroidery, and ſhivering in rags; the ſupporter of, and the dependant on the women. He gathered wiſdom with his diſtreſſes. He found he had been wrong in embarking on any other bottom than his own. His education had given him a knowledge of accounts; his head was clear; and he turn'd the uſe of them to calculation. He had been let into all the tricks of play, he now let himſelf into all its advantages: he wanted only a ſum to begin upon the ſcheme he now laid down; and he was aſſur'd, on very certain principles, of making his fortune.

Conſideration is generally the child of diſtreſs: ſchemes for affluence are gene-

rally laid in times of poverty. No paſſions, for mr. Bragg had no power of indulging any, had interfer'd with his meditations: the green park had been his ſcene of contemplation for more than twenty mornings; and the plan was perfect, only the ſtock wanting, when the ſame chance, at a place in which he laid the ſcheme of his fortune, gave him an opportunity of entering on the action. A lady of about fifty-five had often obſerv'd from her window a tall well-made man, in the depth of meditation, in this ſolitary place: ſhe at length repair'd to it. She took poſſeſſion of a bench on which ſhe had been always uſed to ſee him ſit an hour or two, counting his fortune on his fingers. As he came up to it, ſhe got up to prevent his paſſing by. She told him ſhe had been uſed to ſee him ſit there, and ſhe would not continue on it, unleſs he would ſhew her that ſhe did not now prevent his doing ſo. He bow'd, and they ſat down together; they chatted; he dined with her; and the acquaintance was ſo favourable, that he ſoon found himſelf poſſeſs'd of a ſufficient ſum for his projected ſcheme.

Diſtreſs

Diſtreſs had taught him caution: his ſucceſs taught him gratitude. No more than care was requir'd to manage his plan ſo as to aſſure himſelf of ſucceſs. He was attentive to every ſtep. The old lady's vanity was pleaſed with his equipping himſelf genteely with a part of the money; and in the whole courſe of his proſperity, ſhe had not reaſon to accuſe him of forgetting its ſource. From the dependant on this lady's bounty, he ſoon found his fortune better than her own; as he gam'd on principle, it continued to increaſe; and at the time of his making this offer to Leſbia he was not worth leſs than twenty-five thouſand pounds. As he was always ſober, and had a perfect command of his paſſions, he had the advantage of the fluſter'd and the warm, and he never fail'd to uſe that advantage. As he knew the odds of all chances on calculation, he never took them unleſs, as they generally are among the unexperienced, they were two to one in his favour. As he had all the ſecrets of the trade, he knew it as a principal art in the uſe of them, to paſs them on ſuch as knew none of them. No man ap-

pear'd to win ſo fair as mr. Bragg; but no body won ſo often. No man ſeem'd to play with ſuch perfect careleſſneſs and inattention; but no body refuſed ſo many betts: this was conſtrued into caprice by thoſe who had no conception of the true reaſon; which was, that he never accepted any unleſs where there was a vaſt advantage; and the talk of his loſing made up amply for what was ſeen of his winning. He had, a little before his addreſs to Leſbia, buried the patroneſs of his fortune, to whom his conduct had been meritorious: he had reſolved on a connection of the ſame kind, which ſhould be more to his own fancy; and though he was too knowing in the ways of the world to be the dupe to any body, he ſaw his inclinations in ſo fair a light, that he had determined to make it worth any woman's while, who had not too high an opinion of herſelf, to make him happy. He had determined againſt a giddy girl, and as he intended the connexion ſhould be laſting, he had conſulted his judgment more than his fancy. It was not the face of Leſbia, however favourable opinion that lady might have of it, that had captivated him; he had enquir'd into

her

her character and fortune; he found her a woman of ſenſe and of no diſagreeable figure; diſappointed in her expectations; on the brink of deſtruction; and mortified enough to ſeize on any rational plan of life for the future.

The diſcernment of mr. Bragg had not deceived him. Leſbia, when he wrote his letter, was juſt what he had deſcrib'd her to himſelf; but Leſbia, when ſhe had receiv'd his letter, was quite another woman. The mind alters with every change of the ſituation; and from the diſconſolate, the deſpairing, the hanging or drowning Leſbia, the offer ſhe had received elevated her into the beauty, the proſperous, the admir'd. Even the man who kindles all the pride in the female heart is not excepted from its influence; and Bragg found a very different creature in the Leſbia whom he had elevated by his addreſſes, from that Leſbia who had deſpair'd of ever ſeeing another admirer.

The meeting was a very ſtrange one. Bragg had taken ſome pains to hide, under a ſmiling countenance and well powder'd perriwig, the decays of fifty.

Leſbia had not beſtow'd leſs time in heightning the charms of a younger period, into what reſemblance they could be made to bear of the bloom of a yet earlier. They talk'd, they laugh'd; their buſineſs was to recommend themſelves to one another, and they did it effectually: good humour hid all the decays of the lover better than his dreſs; and affability placed the lady on a footing with the illuſtrious Fanny in point of charms. The meeting produced another, and a third was the conſequence of the ſecond. The equipage of Mr. Bragg was eternally at the door of Leſbia; Leſbia was never in humour at a route, or in public, unleſs mr. Bragg was in ſight. The men envied the lover his conqueſt, and the women congratulated Leſbia on her good fortune.

The countenance of the world had very well reconciled the lady to what had at firſt ſhock'd her delicacy; the becoming the wife of a ſharper. She could hear the terms of thief and pickpocket applied to her lover, and conſtrue them into envy; and if people of her own ſex talk'd of five aces, would tell them they had not

made

made a fortune any way. Reconciled and familiariz'd as the lady was to the firſt ſhock, there was another yet to come, which was the more terrible as it was unexpected. If it had been difficult to her to think of ſubmiting to be the wife of a common ſharper; with what ears muſt ſhe receive the propoſal of being made his miſtreſs? This was to happen; the lover took the moſt favourable opportunity he could to mention it, and he was commanded out of the houſe, out of her ſight for ever at the ſound.

Bragg, who had painted the whole ſcene to himſelf beforehand, was prepar'd for his conduct in it. He drew back to give way to her mighty reſentment: he bow'd with vaſt ſubmiſſion; he promiſed to obey all that ſhe commanded; but he begg'd, for her own ſake as well as his, that he might be heard. 'Heard! reply'd the lady, 'with an indignation that could not 'have been counterfeited, you have been 'heard too long already. But let me 'aſk you, ſir, what part of my conduct 'has led you to ſuppoſe you might

'dare to name ſuch a thing to me ?'—'None,' reply'd the lover coolly. 'Do 'you ſuppoſe, ſir, continued the lady, 'that any man has dared to think of me 'in this light ?' 'A thouſand,' reply'd the lover with the ſame temper. 'And 'do you dare to think they have ſuc-'ceeded ?" No, continued he in the 'ſame ſettled manner, if any one of them 'had, I would not give you two-pence. 'But come, ſaid he, in a milder tone, 'let us once talk coolly upon the matter, 'and your own determinations ſhall be 'final. You have great merit, great 'beauty, and perfect innocence : you 'ought to have made your fortune by 'theſe pretenſions ;—but you have not 'done it. What you have not done yet, 'I am afraid you won't do. I cannot 'marry, if I could, you would have had 'the offer. Your fortunes, I know, are 'deſperate, and what I propoſe to mend 'them is, that you will honour me with 'your approbation, accept a ſettlement, 'of a thouſand pounds a year from me, 'and put your arms upon my equipage, 'plate, and take my name. I know 'you deſerve more, continued he, ma-'dam, and I wiſh I could do more ; bu

'this

'this is all I can; and I ſhall be the
'happieſt of all men if you will accept
'it. It is not a point to be decided in
'a moment; I will wait on you to-
'morrow to hear your reſolution.'

Leſbia was ſilent as he went away. The light in which he had ſet before her the ſtate of her own affairs was the true one, and it had recall'd all her own terrors on the ſame occaſion. She ſaw this only ſcheme againſt abſolute and inevitable deſtruction. The ſilence which accompanied her reſolution to think on it, gave her to the lover's opinion as his own. He went away ſatisfied, and the lady retired to her chamber. The more ſhe conſider'd her own affairs, the more deplorable their ſituation appear'd: the more ſhe revolved the offer of the lover, the more fair it ſeem'd; ſhe was caught by the appearance there would be of her being married to him. She was charm'd with the proſpect of ſo ample a fortune certain to her. She began to ſet the contempt of her ſex very low in the compariſon of this real advantage, even if that ſhould have been the price at which it was purchaſed. The lover was received

on his appointed viſit, with bluſhes and confuſion: the lady had her qualms of mind, and her ſtarts of reſentment; Bragg had too much prudence to attempt any liberties in the unſettled ſtate of her mind, and he was diſmiſs'd without an anſwer. He knew every moment of conſideration would be in his favour, and he readily acquieſced in the terms on which he ſaw his ſuit ſucceeding. He was now received every day with leſs and leſs confuſion and reſerve; he was requeſted not to ſpeak upon the ſubject; but his being received was ſpeaking on the lady's part. She conſider'd the offer and her ſituation; ſhe found the one magnificent, the other deſperate: ſhe conſider'd the character of the man with whom ſhe had to deal; and ſhe found that cunning and a knowledge of the world, great reſolution and unconquerable obſtinacy, made the greateſt part of it. She found, as the reſult of all her conſiderations, that he was not of thoſe people that might be expected to change his mind: the wonder was, how he had been induced to make ſo vaſt an offer; and the buſineſs became to accept it. If he had hitherto been received favourably, the lady now ſaw him fondly;

fondly; ſhe gave him opportunities of more and more little familiarities; ſhe at length, one afternoon, confeſs'd a weakneſs that would plead more in his favour than the generoſity of the offer; and, on his preſſing the fortunate moment, ſhe conſented to accept of it. Here were two people of addreſs deceiving one another. The lady deteſted Bragg in her heart; the lover in his deſpiſed her; but ſhe liked his money, and he had an inclination to her perſon.—He believed the pretended fondneſs; and, as the lady underſtood it, became the dupe of his own fondneſs and her artifice.

Bragg, who knew women ſufficiently to ſeize upon the moment in which they made him any ſubmiſſions, pleaded for her immediate agreement: ſhe begg'd but one day, and pretended reaſons: he comply'd with a real, not an affected reluctance; and the different character of this had nearly deſtroy'd the credit of all the reſt. He was to bring the deed of ſettlement ready for ſigning the following evening; and the lady was to give up herſelf and accept it from that time. It was but pretence of Bragg that the wri-

tings

tings ſhould be hurry'd; from the moment in which ſhe conſented to ſee him, after he had made the offer, he knew ſhe would accept it, and every thing was inſtantly prepar'd to be ready at a moment's notice. The lady, on her part, had real uſe for the intermediate time; what ſhe was about to do was of ſo much importance, that when determin'd on, it required more than her own conſideration. She had one female intimate, a woman of great diſcernment and diſcretion; ſhe viſited her early, ſhe begg'd her advice: ſhe confeſs'd her ſituation, ſhe mention'd Bragg's offer, and ſhe call'd upon her diſcretion to decide for her what ſhe ſhould do.

A lady uſually aſks advice in a love affair after the thing which ſhe pretends to deliberate is over. This was, in ſome meaſure, the caſe with Leſbia, in the preſent conſultation; but the effects of it were more favourable than they uſually are on ſuch occaſions. The lady of whom ſhe aſk'd it was one deep read in the world; the fortune on which ſhe now ſupported herſelf ſhe had procur'd by play; Bragg was very well known to her, and

ſhe

ſhe anſwer'd from that knowledge. She told Lesbia, that, in her opinion, the offer, if real, was by no means to be ſlighted; but that ſhe knew Bragg's temper and fortune too well to ſuppoſe it ſo. She knew him avaritious, and averſe to paying for any thing more than the leaſt for which he could obtain it. She knew the ſettlement the lady mentioned was equal to his whole fortune. She adviſed her to be careful, for that he certainly intended ſome deceit. Lesbia thank'd her with great ſerioufneſs and ſincerity: ſhe found it was neceſſary to truſt another with the ſecret. She apply'd to an attorney of known probity, and who had been employed for her family. She confeſs'd the neceſſities of her ſituation: ſhe confeſs'd the ſacrifice ſhe was about to make to relieve them: ſhe told him of the caution given her by a wiſe and honeſt female friend; and ſhe requeſted him to be in the way to examine the ſettlements. All this was the work of the ſucceeding morning: in the afternoon the lover came; he threw down his credentials on the table, and the lady ſaw an abſolute agreement in form, for the payment of a thouſand pounds a year to

her,

her, during her life, under certain very moderate and fair conditions; ſuch as the not parting from him unprovokedly, the not being intimate with any man to whom he ſhould object; and three or four others, as reaſonable and juſt. She ſtarted at the ſight of a law-hand; ſhe hoped he had not entruſted any perſon with the ſecret of her name as a party to ſuch an agreement. He aſſur'd her there were blanks every where for it; and they read together the whole paper, her eye following his finger over every word as he pronounced it.

Leſbia was ſatisfy'd of his honour; ſhe cenſur'd herſelf for having made a doubt of it; ſhe condemned the ſeverity of her friend's accuſation, and her own ſuſpicions; ſhe was giving him proofs of her good opinion, and he called for pen and ink to fill the blanks, and ſign and execute it. Leſbia retired a few minutes, and ſhe determined to truſt ſome other judgment, as ſhe had at firſt determined. The affair was too great for her ſingle determination; ſhe return'd with a confuſed but good-natur'd countenance.

'You can't ſtay, ſaid ſhe, mercy on me,

'how

'how can I pronounce ſuch a word! to-
'night; but I won't be unhappy any
'longer than to-morrow.' The lover threw the ſettlement into her lap, and his arms about her neck; he had not filled up the blanks, but he offer'd it, and would have left it with her perfect. She made a merit of her diſtruſt, and refuſed; ſhe told him, that to-night he could not ſtay, and that after he had ſign'd, that ſhe ſhould have no power to refuſe him.

They ſupp'd; it was late before they parted; he left the writings with her. Her attorney came on her ſummons in the morning; he examined the ſettlement, and found it a counterfeit one; he ſhew'd her where it deceived her, and ſhe determin'd on vengeance. A lawyer is the fitteſt perſon in the world to adviſe on ſo good-natur'd an occaſion. He propoſed the means, and the lady acquieſced with rapture in them. He waited on her in the afternoon with a real and fair ſettlement of the ſame yearly ſum. All lawyers write the ſame hand; all ſtamps are the ſame; and the paper is the ſame which is marked with them.

To

To avoid ſuſpicion, the attorney, who was promiſed five hundred pounds if it ſucceeded, had begun to a hair's breadth in the ſame part of the ſheet with the other, and cloſed in the ſame part; every capital letter was the ſame, and the blanks were in the ſame places. The paper was left in the hands of the lady, and the lover came in great gaiety and rapture in the evening. The lady now conſented to his remaining with her till he choſe to go; ſhe went to the drawer in which he had ſeen her depoſit the falſe ſettlement the night before; he ſaw a paper of the ſame form: incapable of ſuſpicions as to what had happened, he filled up the blanks with his own hand, call'd up two of her ſervants, and ſign'd and executed it in their preſence, with all the neceſſary formality. The lady told them ſhe was married to mr. Bragg: the ſupper was ordered; and every thing being conducted as if the prieſt, as well as the lawyer, had perform'd his part of the ceremony, Mrs. Bragg received the compliments of her friends; and the lover, conſcious of how vaſt importance it is to a woman's happineſs to be countenanced and received by thoſe of faſhion

of

of her own ſex, ſubmitted to the deceit, and never gave the leaſt hint to cauſe ſuſpicion in any body as to the reality of the marriage. He found what he hardly expected from any woman at Leſbia's time of life, that he had the real ſacrifice of her honour; it is well to find a woman, with whom one has ſuch an engagement, better than one expected: he grew fond of her for her conduct; he ſaw ſhe was above all ſuſpicion; he had too much moderation to attribute this to any thing except the pretence of marriage; and he pitied every man in his own ſituation that did not make ſure of his miſtreſs's fidelity on the ſame terms. On the other hand, Leſbia, who had been intimate with no other perſon, naturally loved the firſt and only acquaintance. She loved him alſo for his conduct, the advantages of which ſhe taſted in a degree beyond what ſhe had imagined poſſible, and ſhe never found it neceſſary to enquire into the occaſion. She had not ſuppoſed it poſſible to paſs univerſally for the wife of the man who ſupported her; ſhe had ſeen many attempts at it, and all unſucceſsful; and ſhe now began to doubt the reality of the marriage of half her acquaintance.

Bragg,

Bragg, who knew his own intereſt better than moſt people, and who had no intention of paying the exorbitant price, at which he had agreed, for the thing which he found ſo much reaſon to be ſatisfied with, took a very extraordinary method of ſaving money, by throwing it away. He knew that, beſide the ſettlement, if it had been real, the lady would have expected a multitude of generoſities. He fell into all theſe with great profuſion. To a woman who lives at eaſe, ten pounds ſpent in an entertainment or a party of pleaſure, will be as well received as fifty thrown into her hands in money. Bragg knew this; he was eternally propoſing ſchemes of this kind; barges up the river, expeditions to Windſor, to Stowe, to Oxford, and to every where, were on foot; and mr. Bragg was not only unſuſpected as a husband, but he obtain'd the character of the beſt husband in the world. The virtues of one of the two married people always reflect a luſtre on the other; the calling Bragg the beſt husband, was acknowledging Lesbia the beſt wife in town. They were eternally together;

people

people of faſhion were always of their parties; and every body that was ſo, congratulated the wife on the complaiſance and affection of her husband. This, in part, anſwer'd the purpoſe of the cunning Bragg; his buſineſs was doing laviſhly what would have been expected as ſupernumerary articles, to evade the demand of the original ones. He ſucceeded. He kept his miſtreſs's pocket ſupply'd in abundance; he loaded her with preſents; and as it was no more her buſineſs than his, to urge a demand which both, tho' from very different principles, knew might end in a diſpute, the half-year day paſſed without any call on the one part, or any offer on the other, of the money.

Pleaſed with the ſucceſs, Bragg continued the means of it: he was for ever repeating his preſents and his civilities: the lady found her tradeſmens bills paid without reluctance; her pocket ſupply'd with great profuſion; and ſhe let the next half year elapſe as the firſt. Conſcious that when the demand was made, there would be an irreconcileable quarrel, both avoided it. They were happy in

their

their engagement, and mutually put off the day that muſt break it. Lesbia with great willingneſs deferr'd her calls, as the ſum was all the time increaſing, and ſuffer'd three years to paſs before ſhe came to the demand. The ſum was now ſo much that it would bear her out againſt any ill effect of the quarrel. She demanded it, and, after repeated evaſions, was refuſed. Bragg told her, he thought ſhe had great reaſon to be ſatisfied with his behaviour to her; that they had lived together now between three and four years, and ſhe had been his wife to all intents and purpoſes; had enjoy'd his fortune as much as he did himſelf; had been receiv'd by all her acquaintance; and always might continue ſo unleſs ſhe choſe to break it. As to the reſt, he told her the agreement was a ſham one. He laugh'd at her for believing any man could be in earneſt who made ſuch a one; and told her, that, unleſs it was her own fault, ſhe might live as ſhe did till his death, if that ſhould happen firſt, and that ſhe would find he had acted like a man of honour by her in his will.

The

The lady affected great ſurprize, but ſhe put in her anſwer by her attorney. Mr. Bragg was arreſted the next morning, as he was at breakfaſt, for three thouſand pounds. He laughed at the action; he told her, before the officer's face, that ſhe knew there was no legal demand of a farthing: and, retiring to a corner of the room, he whiſper'd her, 'Madam, you are on a precipice without ſeeing it: this moment determines 'you happy or miſerable for life. You 'know you can recover nothing from 'me, for I tell you the ſettlement is not 'worth a farthing. If you think well 'to be upon the terms we have been, I 'agree, and will forget this; if not, I 'put in bail to the action, and begin this 'moment, by telling the bailiff what 'the whole town ſhall know by to-mor-'row. Don't be obſtinate, and expoſe 'yourſelf to ſhame and ruin to no pur-'poſe, when you may live as you have 'done.'

The lady laugh'd at his threats, and he began to put them in execution. He told the bailiff, in the hearing of the ſervant,

ſervant, that this was his whore, whom he had kept in a genteel manner theſe three or four years, but that ſhe was not content, but had brought this ſham action againſt him. He added, that ſhe ſhould turn out of doors, and there would be an end of the ſtory. Lesbia had great reſolution. She laugh'd at his threats, and told the officer, as ſhe ſaw the priſoner in his poſſeſſion, ſhe ſhould be under no apprehenſions about the money. It was vain for Bragg to talk to the bailiff of civility, and of taking his word; the ſum was too large, and the plaintiff had ſeen him in his hands. The ſum was too large indeed for any man to run the hazard of bailing; but there is a method of managing in ſuch caſes. Bragg's fortune was in caſh; he ſent for the ſum from his banker's; he put it into the hands of two trades-people whom he dealt with, by way of indemnification; and when they had bail'd him, he employed his attorney to ſtand a trial. Lesbia was all this time thoroughly on her guard; and Bragg, artful and knowing of the world as he was, from the error in regard to the ſettlement, was thoroughly off his. The lady remained

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in the houſe ; he commanded and turn'd her out. She bad him remember the ſettlement ; and he laugh'd at her continued obedience to its conditions.

The lawyer who had drawn up the real ſettlement was the perſon employ'd on the lady's part. He begg'd her to be ſecret as to the whole matter ; he ſaw he ſhould be able to make himſelf ſtill more and more work. The action was remov'd from court to court by the contrivance of the lawyers, and conſent of the parties, who were extremely glad to harraſs one another. Bragg thought he did a notable thing, in keeping the unhappy creature in ſuſpenſe more than a year before ſhe found herſelf ruin'd ; her lawyer, whoſe purpoſes were all anſwer'd by it, ſupply'd her with money on her bond ; and, as ſoon as the year was over, arreſted him with a new action of a thouſand more. The ſame bail were indemnify'd again, and ſerv'd the new purpoſe. Bragg purſued his plan with writs of error, and every ſpecies of delay which the delaying law allows. Lesbia loſt her character entirely, for there was no carrying on the ſuit, but

by giving up all title to the name of wife; but people were ſurprized to ſee her live in affluence The lawyer knew what he did; he had good intereſt; he knew the ſettlement was good; and he ſupply'd her largely. To obviate any ſuſpicion of diſtreſs, ſhe affected a more than ordinary appearance of affluence. The world heard him diſclaim any contract; the world ſaw no man viſit her; all were ſurprized; but the matter at length came to an explanation.

Bragg had been every half year after arreſted for a freſh five hundred, and he had as at firſt lodged the money in the hands of the trades-people who were his bail: the ſame all the while ſerved the purpoſe; but the time was now come when the delays of courts, or changes of the law, could no longer ſtave off the trial on the firſt action. The lawyers ſaw the harveſt now ripening; they knew the deciſion of this would put an end to all the reſt. Bragg was poſitive; his lawyer was reſolute; and the ſettlement was produced. There was no diſputing it. The defendant rav'd, but it was in vain: he ſwore it a forgery; but he confeſs'd

his

his hand and his ſeal, and the witneſſes were preſent who ſaw it executed. It was over. He ſaw, not only that all the money muſt be paid, but that he had ſaddled himſelf with an annuity to the amount of his whole fortune. He thought it proper to retire to France. The ſum lodged in the hands of his bail was ſo great, that they thought it worth while to run away too. The lawyers were diſappointed on all parts, and the lady more ruined than even her enemies could wiſh her.

Thus cloſed the intriguing life of an artful woman; of ambition much above her proper ſphere; and of no ſettled principles of virtue. The fortune of Lesbia was ſuch as would have ſupported her in the country without extravagance; ſhe would paſs her time in London at an expence to which ſhe was not equal. She might have married ſome perſon to whom her fortune would have been of advantage; and who would have ſupported her at the rate of many times its income, and left her many times its ſum. No. She muſt make a fortune, not hazard one, on the contingencies: What

is the conſequence? The lawyer is ſorry to tell her he muſt have his money. There is ſo much lent; ſo much in expences: he pities her fate; he urges her to uſe all the means of recovering ſome part, at leaſt, of what is her due; and till that can be done, after ſetting before her the horrors of that fate to which her fortune had expoſed her, he condeſcends to make his arms the gentler priſon. Lesbia, that Lesbia who had aſpir'd at titles, and the extremeſt ſplendor, grows old in the bed of a dirty attorney; upbraided at every word with the bread ſhe eats; and threatened at every little diſpute with a priſon.

## HISTORY XVIII.

THE people in London, who frequent the ſeveral different places of public reſort, are in themſelves as different. They vary more from one another than the inhabitants of the ſame rank of different climates, and yet all are alike at each of them. Viſit at one route, and

you

you ſhall meet the ſame ſet of faces that you ſee at every route in town: go into a church, and you ſhall ſee the ſame kind of people that you ſee in all churches; but not one of thoſe, who were ever met with at a church, will ever be ſeen in a route; not one of thoſe found at whiſt will be ever ſeen in a pew. 'Tis ſo in all the reſt: look into Kenſington gardens, and you ſee one ſeries of human creatures taking the air: Hyde-park affords you thoſe of a ſecond order: go to to the Mall, and you meet a third ſet, and ſo on through the numerous removes there are between that and Gray's-inn gardens. The company is peculiar, and appropriated in each; there is no change, no mingling: the 'prentice would be as much at a loſs to find an object for his humble honourable flame in the park or the garden, as the noble infamous to meet a companion for the night at Gray's-inn. The people who drink tea at Ranelagh in a ſummer evening, are as different from thoſe who eat beef and cheeſecakes at Vauxhall; and as diſtinct a ſeries from both are they, who croud the baſon at Cuper's, or ſcatter themſelves over the unroll'd walks at Marybon.

A friendly party had din'd with Florio. Florio the gay, the gallant, the wild, the witty, the inconſtant: Florio, for whom novelty has always charms, for whom only novelty has them. It was too late to dreſs: he could not go to Ranelagh, his uſual rendezvous, in the wig which had been rubbing three hours againſt the back of his ſettee; he went to Marybon. The ſcene delighted and ſurpriz'd him: he found an excellent band of muſic, an agreeable ſpot of ground extenſive enough, and well laid out; but what amaz'd and charm'd him moſt was the company. He ſtar'd to ſee himſelf in a croud where he did not know a ſingle face: he was pleaſed, for once, to be in a place where he was not known; he was ſtruck with the ſprightlineſs of the half-dreſs'd Daphne: her manner pleaſed him; her eyes had fire; her ſtep ſpirit and vivacity.

Daphne, the natural daughter of the diſappointed lawyer in the former hiſtory, had but a cool reception from her father, after Leſbia was receiv'd as miſtreſs of his chambers. Beggars are always tyrants.

rants. He had treated her but ſcurvily before; he now found he had leſs uſe for her, and he grew inſupportable. The diſtreſs'd girl had no where elſe to go; but there are tempers that nothing can depreſs. One of theſe was Daphne's: her appearance ſpoke the care and generoſity of the father; but there was a ſomething of the gentlewoman in her manner, that ſet her above the rank ſhe would have been allow'd from that. Her companion had borrow'd ſome ſubſcriber's ticket, and they were at once, beyond diſpute, the wretchedeſt and the merryeſt people in the garden.

Florio accoſted her not as a woman of ill character, for that he ſaw ſhe was not; but there was ſomething of a freedom in his manner, which, perhaps, a better gown on the girl would have prevented. She ſaw it; ſhe hid a tear, and ſhe return'd his civilities. The ſilent reproof was not loſt upon the gallant; he ſpoke with a proper reſerve; they enter'd into converſation; and they walk'd together. She had ſenſe enough to be charm'd with Florio, and he diſcernment at once to admire and to compaſſionate her. They

talk'd without reſerve; he ſpoke his approbation warmly; the lady ſmil'd, and return'd his compliments. He aſk'd her to ſup; ſhe ſmil'd again, and refus'd him. When he preſs'd it, ſhe told him ſhe only laugh'd at his miſtake. It was in vain that he aſſur'd her he thought nothing ill of her. She was convinced he would not have propoſed it, had he not, and ſhe triumph'd in her innocence, as ſhe declined it. It grew late; it rain'd; the company were going: Florio had taken a great deal of pains to get his new acquaintance to ſtay ſo long. She perſiſted in her reſolution of leaving him, and he offer'd them his coach to town. They declin'd it; and he accompany'd them over the fields on foot; and the girl told him with a ſigh, ſhe was ſorry ſhe had no thanks to return him for what ſhe ſaw now had been all his intent.

He ſtopp'd to aſſure her of his innocence: he told her, in all the warmth of eloquence that love can inſpire, that he meant no affront to her, nor would preſs her to any thing. 'You deſerve, ſaid he, 'a better fate than you ſeem to have. I 'will go with you no farther, that you

may

'may not ſuppoſe me to have deſigns which 'I have not. I will thank you, added he, 'if you'll tell me where you live; if not, 'let me give you my direction; and I 'exact only one promiſe of you, that you 'will read it before you throw it in the fire.' The lady promis'd, and Florio open'd his pocket-book; he took out a pencil, and telling her he knew he could write ſo much in the dark, put the paper in her hand. 'Now, madam, ſaid he, I would have 'you remember your promiſe. When 'ſhall I ſee you again?" continu'd he. 'Never, I dare ſwear,' reply'd the girl with great ſpirit. 'You'll be here again 'after a day or two.' 'Never,' was again the anſwer. They parted. Florio return'd half wet to the ſkin to his coach; and the poor girl, when ſhe open'd the pretended direction according to her promiſe, was aſtoniſh'd to find it a bank note of fifty pounds. The ſight at once ſet the generoſity and the affairs of the lover in a very high light with the unhappy girl. She ſaw the deſign; ſhe determin'd to have gratitude enough to return her thanks to her benefactor, and honeſty enough to tell him he could not prevail with her.

He expected her three nights after at Marybon. She came: the ſame frankneſs of diſpoſition, which had charm'd him before, diſplay'd itſelf in her whole conduct now. He had expected to ſee her better dreſs'd, and he was not diſappointed; but inſtead of all the dirty finery that would have been hung upon the back of many a young creature on ſuch an occaſion, he ſaw her decent, but very plain. A ſmall portion of his bounty had cloath'd her; and it was plain ſome little had been beſtow'd alſo on her companion. Florio commended her prudence; he evaded all the compliments that would have accompany'd her thanks; he ſaw her intent on ſpeaking with him out of the croud, and he followed them into a remote walk.

The poor girl threw herſelf on her knees as ſoon as ſhe was out of ſight. I ‘ cannot ſuppoſe, ſir, ſaid ſhe, your gene- ‘ roſity was meant any other way than as ‘ the price of my virtue. I will own, that ‘ without this temptation, if I dar'd to ‘ look up to you, there is no man who ‘ would more terrify me with ſuch a demand;

'mand; but 'tis honeſt to tell you at 'once, that your perſon, your under-'ſtanding, and all your fortune, would 'plead in vain for ſuch a ſacrifice: I can 'have no expectations from you, becauſe 'there are none which you will ever have 'anſwer'd by me. I came in obedience to 'your orders; I have taken a little from 'the generous ſum you put into my 'hand, that I might not diſgrace you 'while you ſpoke to me; the reſt is 'here, and I beg you will accept it 'back.'

Florio refus'd; ſhe ſaw it was in vain to preſs him farther; and ſhe dar'd not offend him. When it was impoſſible for her to return it, ſhe told him, ſhe had not been without her expectations of his generous refuſal, and had intended in that caſe to beg his permiſſion to employ it as would be moſt uſeful to her. 'You ſee 'before you, ſir, continued ſhe, the moſt 'diſtreſs'd of women: I know no mo-'ther; my father, who is the only rela-'tion I ever had acquaintance with, is 'about to turn me out of his houſe, 'though he has given me no means to 'live. If you will permit me to be

'happy, and to be innocent, I will em-
'ploy the remainder of the ſum you
'gave me in learning ſome buſineſs by
'which I may ſupport myſelf.'

The honeſty of the girl charm'd the wild fellow: here was a new ſort of pleaſure, and he determin'd to indulge it. 'I ſee you are determin'd to 'be virtuous, ſaid he, and far be it from 'me to prevent it: I will aſſiſt you in it. 'I ſhall be happy to paſs ſometimes an 'afternoon with you, and to enjoy the 'tranquility I give you. Upon my 'honour I will never aſk more of you.' As he ſpoke he added an equal ſum to his former generoſity, adviſ'd her againſt the ſervile part of what ſhe ſuppoſed, and put her into lodgings, with his advice to purſue her plan in any way ſhe would.

It was the determination of every body, who ſaw ſo gay a fellow viſit ſo inconſiderable a girl, that he kept her. She ſubmitted to the loſs of her reputation, as a ſacrifice not too great for the price to which ſhe made it. Satisfy'd that ſhe kept her virtue, ſhe paid little regard to

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the reſt. She labour'd at her employ; ſhe became miſtreſs of it in a very perfect manner. Florio made her continual preſents; and it was little ſuſpected, among the polite and diſſolute of his acquaintance, that he was loſt whole evenings among threads and patterns, or that he was at a conſiderable expence about a girl from whom he expected no kind of return. Such, however, was his cuſtom, ſo diſintereſted his views. All the merit is not however to be attributed to Florio, there were moments, and they return'd too often, in which paſſion got the better of his honeſt reſolutions. The unhappy object of his generoſity had no recourſe but tears on this occaſion. 'I told you 'from the firſt, ſhe would ſay, that I 'knew this would be your expectation, 'and that it never would be granted. 'You have heap'd a thouſand new fa-'vours on me ſince, and yet I cannot 'fall to this. Take back all from me, 'leave me deſtitute as you found me; but 'that you cannot; your generoſity has 'given me means of a ſupport: but give 'me leave then, ſir, to pay you all my 'obligations out of what it ſhall bring 'me.' Such was always the language of

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the ſweet girl. The effect on a heart truly generous, though wild in its flights, and devoted to its paſſions, is eaſily gueſs'd. Florio was always aſham'd of his attempts, and gave the object of them new confuſion by his entreating her to pardon him.

Though the grateful girl made it a point of merit to ſacrifice (ſince it could not be preſerved) her character to the pleaſure which the perſon, to whom ſhe was ſo infinitely obliged, found in her converſation, he ſaw the reſignation with great warmth of acknowledgment, but not without pain. 'The women of this 'age, child, he would ſay, have the moſt 'ſacred regard to their reputation: it is 'the firſt of all conſiderations. Their vir-'tue, if they could part with it, while 'the other were ſecure, would ſtand on a 'very ſlender foundation. How different 'are you from the reſt of your ſex, who 'voluntarily and freely give up that 'which they eſteem ſo highly, and 'obſtinately retain what they deſpiſe, ex-'cept as the ſupport of the other, even 'after you have given up that, for the 'preſervation of which they eſteem it

only

'only valuable. If I love you for one 'of theſe, continued the generous youth, 'it is for the preſerving you entire; if 'there is any thing I could think hardly 'of you for, it would be the giving up 'your character, which, had I diſcover'd 'earlier, ſhould not have been, and which 'now ſhall not be longer.

The girl's anſwer was ſhort: 'I owe 'you all things, ſir, ſaid ſhe; I retain a 'ſenſe of my obligations: I do not pre-'tend to be without my ſexes pride in 'character and reputation; but I could 'ſacrifice it to you without a crime, and 'I wiſh'd it more valuable that it might 'have been more worthy my ſentiments 'of gratitude. What cuſtom only had 'render'd ſacred, it had been a crime in 'me to have eſteem'd of any value 'againſt your pleaſure: what religion 'makes ſo, I am commanded by a 'power, ſuperior even to yours, to 'hold inviolable.' Florio was aſtoniſh'd at her underſtanding: he reverenced her as much as he had been uſed to admire her; he determined on reſtoring that character which ſhe had ſo unfairly loſt, and became more cautious in his viſits.

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He received her privately at his own houſe; and the unjuſt ſuſpicions that will attend the moſt innocent intimacy between two young people of different ſexes, now were confin'd to his own ſervants, or to a few people only who did not know her. In her own neighbourhood he gave occaſion to its being propagated, that he was a near relation, and ſhe had her inſtructions not to contradict it. He told her there was yet ſomething to be done for her: he aſk'd her if there was any perſon with whom ſhe thought ſhe could be happy as a wife, and added that he would pay down a little portion for her.

'You have often touch'd me tenderly, 'oh ſir, reply'd ſhe, with your kindneſſes; 'but you now confound and over-'whelm me with them: what anſwer am 'I to make to you. I have no mean, 'no ambitious views in what I ſhall ſay 'to you on this ſubject; but you have a 'right to truth, and my full heart muſt 'give it you. Could any woman, ſir, 'who was honour'd with your friend-'ſhip, ſee another man, otherwiſe than 'with diſregard; what then muſt be my 'thoughts, to whom a thouſand things,

'beſide

'beſide your general accompliſhments, 'endear you. I would not dare to ſay 'this, but that I know the bars between 'your heart and me are immoveable on 'both ſides; I may ſay under that ſenſe, 'that I ſhall beg to be permitted to adore 'your goodneſs, and that I cannot give 'that perſon, to which you have ex-'preſs'd a partiality, to another.' Florio turn'd his eyes away, but in a moment he recover'd himſelf. 'I ſhould be a 'villain if I could take advantage of this 'declaration. It has endear'd you more 'to me. There are reaſons, into which 'you muſt not enquire, that prevent 'my marrying you; were the diſparity 'of our fortune all, I ſhould eſteem it 'none. I am conquer'd, continued he, 'by your frankneſs, your generoſity and 'virtue; and to act like a man held to 'you by ſuch rational engagements, you 'have my honour that I will never think 'of injuring you again. I thank you for 'having always reſiſted my folly; when I 'requeſt you again call it by a worſe name; 'remember me of that honour I have 'now engag'd againſt it, and tell me I 'am forfeiting all that makes diſtinction 'between the man of birth and peaſant.

From

From this inſtant Florio took up a reſolution of marrying the worthy creature whom he had retrieved from deſtruction. It was the only thought he ever concealed from her; but the keeping this back continued her in the ſame point of view in which ſhe had already diſplay'd ſo many virtues, and gave him opportunities of ſeeing, from her ſucceeding conduct, whether ſhe would preſerve, under deſpair, that reſpect, that love for him, which, till he had examin'd farther, it was poſſible he might imagine the offſpring of intereſted expectations. His viſits were more rare at her lodgings; he ſtaid but a little time with her, and thoſe at his houſe were leſs frequent and more open. He ſought to reconcile the people in his own neighbourhood, and even his ſervants, to the character of the perſon who was to be his wife. He could not appear any where in public with a perſon whom he intended to ſhew in ſo different a capacity; the principal entertainment he allow'd himſelf, in which ſhe had a ſhare, was an expedition ſometimes into the country for one day; for his regard to her character would

would not ſuffer it to be more; they ſet out early, and his light equipage, with ſix horſes, carry'd them eaſily twenty miles or more to breakfaſt; and, after a day of truly rural amuſement, return'd with them in time. One of theſe expeditions had carry'd them ſomething farther than uſual, to a village at ſome diſtance beyond Windſor. They had dined; they were enjoying the proſpect, and Florio, who never gave her any reaſons for the particular direction of the tour, was at this time pointing out to her a houſe at about two or three miles diſtance. She was loſt in a different obſervation; ſhe had her eye fix'd upon the other end of the walk in which they were, and her colour chang'd every moment. Florio directed his eyes the ſame way, and was not without marks of confuſion. The poor girl hung upon his arm, and told him, 'I beg you will pardon my inat-
'tention to what you was ſaying to me;
'but there is a perſon upon whom I have
'been uſed to look, though I know not
'why, with great veneration, and I have
'not ſeen him now theſe four years.'
Florio told her, that veneration, he hoped, would be long continued: 'That,
'madam,

'madam, ſaid he, is my father. The 'houſe I ſhew'd you is his, it will be 'mine; and tho' I never ſaid it before, 'I ſhew'd it you becauſe it will be yours. 'How he came here I cannot gueſs; it 'ſurpriſes and it confounds me,' The ſight of the old gentleman had now loſt its power; what Florio ſaid had engroſs'd, and it overpower'd all her faculties. She fainted. The ſcene was ſtrange. The father came up while Florio was buſied in bringing her to herſelf. Neither of them took any notice of one another; all their care, all their attention was beſtow'd on her. When ſhe recover'd, the father, turning his eyes with great tenderneſs on Florio, and then on the girl, exclaim'd, 'How have you 'diſcover'd her? What villainy is there 'to come farther? Where has ſhe been? 'Or how came even herſelf intruſted 'with the ſecret?' All was aſtoniſhment; the words villainy and ſecret were myſteries, both to the ſon and to the girl. They begg'd an explanation. They ſpoke together, but the anſwer was directed to the ſon. 'Florio, ſaid the 'amaz'd and enraptur'd father, if chance 'have done this, 'tis more the ſubject of

'wonder

'wonder than if your prudence and your 'virtue had accompliſh'd it. You ſee 'your ſiſter!' Death was in the faces of both of them at the ſound. To be thrown from ſuch a courſe of expectation, ſuch an imagin'd certainty, on the part of the lovers, was terrible; but to be daſh'd at once, from the extremeſt bliſs, which ſhe had been aſſured of but a moment before, was to the poor girl yet a thouſand times more ſo: they fell upon their knees together to the old gentleman, and when he had raiſed them he continued his diſcourſe, ſtill holding the recover'd daughter in his hand. 'You ſee a ſiſter; you make me confeſs 'my crimes: yet why ſhould I call that 'a crime of which this is the fruit; a ſiſter 'whom I ſecreted, but whom I meant to 'provide for handſomly, even at your 'expence? Her mother is of falhion; 'I believe this the only trip ſhe ever 'made from virtue; and I have not for-'given, nor ever can forgive myſelf as 'the occaſion of it. I committed her to 'the care of my attorney; her mother is 'married: to prevent the poſſibility of a 'diſcovery that might be fatal to her 'peace, I requeſted, I brib'd him to

'educate

'educate her as his own. It is many 'years ſince I ſaw London otherwiſe 'than on her account, and I viſited her 'with privacy. He told me he had ſent 'her to a convent of Engliſh in France; 'he obtain'd of me a large ſum for the 'charges of her journey, her prepa-'ration, and her admittance. He at 'length obtain'd another, on a ſtrange 'and incredible account of the manner 'of her death. And do you live, my 'Charlotte, continued he embracing her 'tenderly! I am your father, child; 'and there muſt have been ſome ſtrange 'cheat in this pretended parent, to ob-'tain from me at once what he might 'have had continued more to his ad-'vantage.'

All were overcome with the ſtrange-neſs of the incident; the father was not able to ſupport his joy, the children their diſtreſs. His coach was at the end of the walk. He delay'd the viſit he was going to pay in the village, and led them to it. They never parted afterwards: they lived in the country with their father 'till his death, and inherited the ſeat after him. The love which they now paid;

their

their gratitude to heaven that they had not indulged, even in innocent, in honourable inceſt, ſoften'd into that which became the name of brother and ſiſter. They had charms for one another, which no others of either ſex could boaſt: they continued ſingle; the brother was not the ſurvivor; the name, the eſtate, the whole inheritance, devolved on the virtuous Charlotte, who, though ſhe had, by her conſtancy of mind, refuſed what would have flatter'd her with the ſhew of uncommon bliſs at firſt, would in the event have proved horror and diſtraction. So ſure a guardian and a guide is virtue to happineſs; ſo frequent is vice attended with miſeries not its own, with horrors which afflict the deeper, as they are entail'd by crimes.

HISTORY

## HISTORY XIX.

THE perſon who attended the happy Charlotte to Marybon, at the time when ſhe firſt ſaw Florio, and when ſhe obey'd his appointment of a ſecond meeting there, had been the partner of all her ill fortune, and the gratitude of that amiable creature would not let her be a ſtranger to the good. She had firſt aſk'd permiſſion of her father, and after of her brother, to invite her down. She kept her there, and enjoy'd the happineſs they beſtow'd on her as much as if it had been her own. Delia, whom ſhe had ſelected thus as her early acquaintance, had come to her firſt notice under the moſt endearing of all ties, that of a companion in misfortune. The gardens of the Temple, near which the pretended father of Charlotte had his chambers, were thrown open for the reſort of all who had leiſure and a love for walking. The little company that frequented them gave room for contemplation; and they were as much, perhaps more viſited by the unhappy than by the reſt of the world.

Char-

Charlotte had been uſed, when the ſervile offices on which her pretended father employ'd her would allow her time, to indulge her melancholy on one corner of a bench there; the Marcus of a former hiſtory, and many more objects of the mortify'd kind, would occaſionally take poſſeſſion of the other; but the perſon who attracted her eyes moſt powerfully, was a young creature like herſelf, in her whole form and appearance: her dreſs was that of one who had a right to better than ſhe could then appear in; her melancholy was immoveable. The unhappy girls, at length, join'd in converſation: their own ſtory was the moſt natural ſubject, but Charlotte had none to tell: all ſhe knew of her own hiſtory, was, that ſhe liv'd with a rigid father, one who uſurp'd all the authority, though he had nothing of the tenderneſs of that relation. Delia had much more to tell.

Delia, though at this time barely ſeventeen, remember'd days in which her father's levee was crowded, his ſide-board bent with plate, and his friends were entertain'd like thoſe of a prince. She re-

member'd his ſetting out for Flanders with his regiment; ſhe remember'd the news of his death in the field; ſhe had ſeen her mother reduc'd to part with every thing, to pay the demands of his creditors; and ſhe had liv'd with her on the penſion which the government allows on this occaſion. That mother now was dead; and the orphan deſtitute. A friend of her mother's had received her into her houſe, but was able to do nothing for her, and was at this time recommending her to ſome mean employ. Creatures ſo unhappy became intimate by condolence. The very nothing, which Charlotte poſſeſs'd, the unhappy Delia ſhar'd with her. When Florio had given her the means of a ſubſiſtence, the other ſhar'd it. She had been her friend and counſellor, and had at all times ſtrengthen'd her reſolutions of virtue.

The aſtoniſhment Delia felt at the news of her friend's fortune is ſcarce to be conceiv'd. She did not ſtay to be invited to a ſhare of it; ſhe met the meſſenger, who was coming for her; ſhe liv'd in the family; and it was a pleaſure to the old man, that he could at once oblige

oblige a daughter whom he had lov'd, and do an act of meritorious generosity. Delia continu'd in the family to his death: he ask'd his son's permission to leave her a little fortune in his will. She had continued afterwards, at the request of both, where she had received her good fortune, and had attended Florio, in his last illness, like one whose life depended on his recovery.

Charlotte was now mistress of the family; Delia, happy in an independance, but link'd to her in amity more firmly than she could have been by interest, or any meaner motive. They were happy in recounting their past troubles; they found a new relish for the present good on the comparison: they were the esteem of all the country for their virtues, their admiration for their friendship.

Charlotte had truly lov'd her brother; she had felt that passion for him, in its purest state, and in its utmost degree, before she knew that she had claim to another species of it, under that title of consanguinity. It had been always attended with despair; at first from the dis-

parity of their circumſtances, afterwards more total from their alliance. Perhaps love is never ſo much itſelf as when deſpair is join'd with it. The paſſion ſhe had for the amiable Florio had drown'd all pretenſions to merit in other men; and even when it became impoſſible for her but to indulge a thought of it farther, when it had chang'd its very nature, it ſtill retain'd its place in ſuch full power, that ſhe could not think of any other. What an admiration of his virtues and his perſon had done while he liv'd, the remembrance of them effected as ſecurely after his death; Charlotte was determin'd againſt marriage.

Delia lov'd her generous friend to ſuch an exceſs, that ſhe adopted all her paſſions and affections: ſhe imbib'd, from her reſolutions againſt marriage, the ſame kind of deteſtation of the thought; and ſhe had ſeen, indeed, in the unhappy viciſſitudes of her own family, ſo ſtrong a leſſon againſt it, that what was at firſt but opinion, ſtrengthen'd, under this ſupport, into the moſt determin'd choice. Her fortune was eaſy, or had it been leſs, the manner in which ſhe liv'd

with

with Charlotte would have made her ſo. They had bid adieu to the world, without aſking themſelves the leaſt queſtion whether they ſhould like to do ſo; they had not of many years ſeen London, and they had no deſire to ſee it. The village in which they lived was remote from the commerce of the world: its inhabitants, people whoſe circumſtances laid them in the way of a thouſand obligations to the ladies, and who received them all. They became familiar with the rector of the place, and were directed by him as to the objects of their bounty: they frequented the ſervice of the church, and by the particular countenance they gave to ſuch as they ſaw regularly there; they promoted the reſpect to religion in all: they viſited little; they read a great deal; and as their fortunes were vaſtly beyond their expence, it would not be eaſy, perhaps, to point out two people ſo beneficial to a whole neighbourhood. The young recluſes, for this was the general name by which they were call'd, tho' they continu'd, in a great degree, as much ſtrangers in the country as when they arriv'd in it, were not the leſs objects of converſation; they were reſpected by all, as

they gave offence to none; and their fortunes, partly from what people knew of the manor eſtate, partly from their conjectures, and more from their extenſive charity, were repreſented as very conſiderable.

——— Mackneal, eſq; the fifth ſon of a draper in the north of Ireland, was coming expreſs to London, on the invitation of a ſet of his countrymen, who aſſociate themſelves there for the good of the nation. Mr. Mackneal was ſix feet four inches high, a very well made man, and with much the gentleman in his deportment; he had been taught the languages and exerciſes; he wrote love ſongs, danced, and fenced better, perhaps, than any man of the country. It was not to be doubted but qualities like theſe would recommend him to any woman, and the ſociety had been at ſome expence in equipping him for the expedition. Your true keen ſportſman will angle in a ditch, while the river is but half a mile before him. The 'ſquire had been commiſſion'd to wait on a gentleman of fortune at windſor, who would introduce him into London with a good grace: he

ſtopp'd

ſtopp'd there to execute this part of his charge; he was well receiv'd; and among other news of the Engliſh world, he heard the names of the two great fortunes, which liv'd retir'd at a few miles diſtance from that place; he determin'd to try his fortune with them. He was told it would be impoſſible to gain admiſſion: he was recommended to an acquaintance with the parſon of the pariſh, in order to an introduction; but this was a round-about way. Mr. Mackneal was none of the dilly dally lovers. It was at tea in the afternoon that he heard it; he order'd his horſe to be ſaddled directly; he ſpent two hours in ſhaving and dreſſing to the moſt advantage; and he mounted juſt as it was dark. People ſuppoſed him mad; but the next news they received from him, was an invitation, deliver'd the next morning, to come to ſee him at the ladies houſe.

Mackneal was one of thoſe people whom hunger inſpires with reſolution. He ſaw the neceſſity of his ſucceeding in ſome amour or other; he ſaw this as a very favourable one; and he determin'd it to be worth ſome pains to get into a way of puſhing his fortune. The road

lay under the wall of theſe ladies garden. He ſaw the ſeat of his intended inheritance; the difficulty was to get into it. He alighted from his horſe; he broke his head againſt a ſtone; he tore his cloaths with the brambles; and he did not ſcruple to make a very painful wound in his arm on ſo good an occaſion. The horſe was turn'd looſe; the cries of the rider ſoon drew ſome good old woman from her cottage to his relief. He begg'd to be conducted to the next houſe, whoſoever it was; and he was carry'd, by the huſband and the ſon of the old woman, to Charlotte's, while ſhe went before to deſire the ſervants to acquaint the ladies, that a great gentleman, to be ſure, was almoſt killed in the road, and deſired to be admitted into any houſe, till farther care could be taken of him.

The ladies had been ſo little converſant in the intriguing world, that they harbour'd no ſuſpicion from the meſſage; if they had, the ſight of the object would have cur'd them. Mackneal had not ſpar'd himſelf in the execution; and the blood made a formidable

figure.

figure. The ladies called for their ſalves and dreſſings, for ſurgery is one of the branches of the country gentlewoman's occupation: they had not ſeen ſo terrible a hurt as that on his head before, but they took infinite pains to put things in the beſt order they could, while the moſt expeditious of the ſervants was commiſſion'd to Windſor for a ſurgeon.

The patient had been faint during the firſt quarter of an hour, but he recovered himſelf at length to return his gratitude to the ladies. They ſaw him in no condition to be remov'd; they ordered a bed to be made ready; and in an hour after the painful part of the preparation, the lover ſaw himſelf in poſſeſſion, if he could but keep it. The ſurgeon dreſſed him in bed. The ladies could not aſſiſt on that occaſion, but the terrors which they had conceived at the ſight of of ſo much blood, and ſuch large hurts, were happily countenanced by the ſurgeon's fallacy, in pretending the caſe to be a very terrible and dangerous one. The tender hearts of the ladies felt for the unhappy ſtranger. An elderly ſervant was order'd to ſit up the night with him, and they ſent for her many times

to enquire how he reſted. In the morning they viſited him, but without ſuffering him to talk much, or to undraw his curtains. He was profuſe in his acknowledgments for their goodneſs; and the compliment in return was, the deſiring him not to think of removing till he was recovered.

Every thing now promiſed finely. He begg'd permiſſion to aſk his friends at Windſor to ſee him; this was the meſſage deliver'd to them early in the morning; and, to prevent all ſuſpicion, he wrote nothing, but only deſired the ſervant to tell them what had happened to him. The name of the perſon to whom he ſent was a conſiderable countenance to him; the ladies, as well as their ſervants, had heard of him as a man of vaſt fortune; he was in the ſecret of the ſcheme, and there was no doubt of his promoting it without farther hints. Mr. Mackneal knew what a deal depended on the firſt impreſſion. He knew all that appear'd about him would be greatly in his favour, and his firſt generoſity was to the ſervant who had been extremely careful of him in the night. The gratuity was

five

five guineas. The horſe was ſoon after found; and the creature, as well as the furniture, all ſpoke the ſame high language. His friend arriv'd, and was conducted by Charlotte to the room in which he lay; and, as he was now ſitting up with his coat on, ſhe ventur'd in with him. The firſt ſurprize and grief were well counterfeited; for no perſon on earth could ſurpaſs him for diſſimulation. 'What will your father ſay when he 'hears of this!' was the firſt exclamation. 'It will break his heart.' How came it, and a thouſand other queſtions, were utter'd in a hurry after this; but the buſineſs was to return to the father. The good old draper was repreſented as a man of four thouſand pounds a year, above ninety years of age, and doating on his only ſon. Every farther hint that could promote the ſcheme was thrown in; and, to countenance it, at taking leave his friend aſk'd him if he ſhould want any caſh, or what he had about him. The lady obſerv'd, that he could want none while he was there, or if he did he might command it of them; but the patient deſir'd his friend to look into his pocket, and ſee if he had his book

about him; and if it was there, to ſee if any thing was in it. The pocket-book was open'd in form, and ſeven hundred pound was counted out in bank notes from it. The viſiter took his leave, and the lady commanded the ſervants to be careful in their attendance, and to take care that they treated the ſtranger with that reſpect which his quality deſerved.

Mackneal, on his own part, did not forget the circumſtance of the parſon; though he had not patience to have recourſe to it when it was propoſed to him, he now found it very convenient to court his acquaintance. He begg'd the miniſter of the place to be ſent for; he told him of the dangerous ſituation in which he learned from the ſurgeon that his life was, and begg'd that he would honour him with his viſits as often as he could with convenience. The gravity of his deportment, and the integrity of his paſt life as he now, in pretended care for his ſoul's health, related it to him, charm'd the unſuſpecting honeſt man; he was pleaſed with his politeneſs; and, when he grew better, the knowledge of the Claſſics, of which Mackneal was a good

maſter,

maſter, ſtood him in no little ſtead. His generoſity concurr'd in the general teſtimony; and, in fine, the noiſe which the accident made throughout the country, was every where attended with encomiums of the higheſt kind on the ladies, and with ſuch a character of the perſon who was received into their houſe, as tended not a little to promote his ends.

The miniſter of the place was the intimate and firſt favourite of the ladies; he repreſented him to them at every word as the moſt of the gentleman, the man of honour, and the ſcholar, of all men he had ſeen: his fortune and family were countenanced by a thouſand accidents, things calculated at leaſt to appear ſuch. His friends viſited him from London, and their appearance ſupported the aſſertions which they alſo made of his family and paternal eſtate. It was impoſſible for the inhabitants of a country village to ſee through the deceit: they could not think that fifty people could join in the ſame ſtory if it was not true; they knew not how to conceive any idea of ſharpers in embroidery; and if there could have been a ſuſpicion of all the reſt, the known

fortune

fortune and character of his Windſor friend would have pleaded for all. When the London viſiters were alone with him, they congratulated with him on the ſucceſs; they preſs'd him to accept of ſupplies to what amount he pleaſed; they urged him to be generous to the moſt extravagant profuſion; and they added a thouſand new ſtratagems to aſſiſt the proſperous deſign.

The miniſter thought of the advantage it would be to the pariſh to have ſuch a man for an inhabitant. Unknown to the ladies he talk'd on the ſubject to the viſiter. Mackneal, when he related to him the fortune and good qualities of Charlotte, doubted not but it was by commiſſion, and he fell in with the ſcheme, and talk'd of a thouſand charms the other had not the eyes of a lover to ſee. Full of his ſucceſs on this part, he took an opportunity to ſpeak upon the ſame ſubject to the lady. She was not peeviſh nor averſe; but what was much more chilling to his hopes, ſhe calmly anſwer'd, that ſhe ſaw all the accompliſhments he mention'd and more, in the perſon whom accident had brought to her houſe; but

that

that her thoughts were not, nor ever would be turn'd toward marriage. The manner in which ſhe deliver'd this was more determinatory than the words. The prieſt ſaw his attempt would not ſucceed; he viſited the recovering patient, and told him of his attempt and of his ill ſucceſs: 'What I could not do, perhaps, continued 'he, you ſtill may. The lady did not re-'ceive the propoſal with any anger, and 'I would have you try your own for-'tune.' Mackneal could not have wiſh'd a more favourable account; he flatter'd himſelf with a certainty of ſucceſs; with a permiſſion to court a lady who had heard his paſſion from another without diſguſt; who had even received a propoſal of marriage without reſentment; he could not entertain ſo mean an opinion of his own talents as to doubt of ſucceſs. He ſmil'd at the clergyman's pretending to have nam'd the thing as from his own mere motion; he laugh'd at the regard which the good man paid to her reſolutions againſt marriage; and he thought, ſuch is the coxcomb ſecurity, that every thing was open to him.

The ſtory of his fortune had been too well atteſted to bear the ſhadow of diſpute among people ſo remote from a world of treachery; his manner was agreeable and engaging, his perſon unexceptionable: there was perhaps hardly a woman in the world who would have eſcaped the ſnare except Charlotte; and with her the ſafety was not from prudence but accident: her heart was ſo perfectly engroſs'd by one favourite idea, that no other could find place in it.

We are not to wonder that aſſociations of men, all raſcals and all beggars, who having no abſolute ſupport but what ariſes from the alternate ſucceſs of one or other of the party, and with whom marriage and play are the only general funds, ſhould aſſiſt one another in all difficulties and under all conditions. Friendſhip or fidelity to one another are not neceſſary in it, ſince in puſhing the fortunes of another, each is purſuing his own. Theſe, however, often uſe all their arts in vain: in town they are as well known in public as the thieves of a lower claſs about the doors of the playhouſes;

houſes; and even at a diſtance, before a plot that requir'd any degree of time to its maturity could be executed, 'tis more than probable ſome ſtranger might diſcover them: the danger is from the countenance they receive from thoſe who are not of their own claſs. To this the virtuous, the innocent Charlotte might have fallen a ſacrifice; and 'tis this unſuſpected miſchief that people, who have any concern among theſe folks, ſhould moſt carefully be guarded againſt. Mackneal, we ſee, was patroniſed by a man of fortune and of character in an adjacent town; this gentleman aſſerted, on his own knowledge, the pretended birth and fortune of the adventurer; and this aſſertion had the appearance of a right not to be ſuſpected. Of all people the Iriſh are the moſt national. 'Tis, in ſome degree, the caſe in all countries where there are many of ſome other nations; people who diſregard one another while at home, are ſtrenuous friends when among ſtrangers, and it is right; but 'tis a virtue which theſe of this kingdom carry into a vice. If the lower claſs only ſupported one another, it would be out of their power to do any great miſchief; but while thoſe

of

of a higher claſs countenance and ſupport them, there is no fair ground for ſuſpicion. People are ſtagger'd at the ſeeming aſſurance of the contrary to what would have been thought, and thus fall ſacrifices to what, when they afterwards reproach thoſe whoſe character had led them into it with the fault, they hear was the fault of miſrepreſentation: that a man who comes out of a large kingdom can't be ſuppoſed to know every individual perſon in it; and that the man had always been repreſented to them as they had again repreſented him. Thus an excuſe is the palliation for diſtreſs and ruin.

Mackneal, ſupported by his party, where munificence is always proportion'd to the proſpect of ſucceſs; and countenanced by a man of conſequence, who would have thought it virtue to make the fortune of his countryman by a falſity, was now in the depth of his ſcheme. He grew well; he walk'd about the gardens; he ſat at table; he went to church; he was every where and every thing with the ladies; and if he was ſilent as to the great point, it was only to

make

make his ſucceſs more ſecure: the engineer was continuing his mine till it ſhould fire the whole town before he ſhewed the match that ſhould be laid to it. When he ſaw that Charlotte approved his perſon and behaviour; when he ſaw the prime miniſter with that princeſs, the clergyman, fully in his intereſt; when the common people, whom he had bought by very conſiderable liberalities, were all wiſhing, and talking of what they wiſh'd, as what they knew would happen; when every tongue but his own had pleaded his paſſion, he ventur'd to drop ſome diſtant hints of it himſelf. The lady, determined to refuſe, thought it moſt polite not to underſtand them; he conſtrued this in his favour, and he proceeded nearer to an explanation: when the lady was ſtill inſenſible to theſe, he underſtood it as calling for a full and free declaration. He made it, and he received as full and free an anſwer. Charlotte thank'd him for the honour which he did her; acknowledged that ſhe was ſenſible that the propoſal was every way to her advantage; and went ſo far as to add, that if ſhe could be brought to a favourable opinion of any particular

perſon

perſon in ſuch a regard, ſhe believed none would find it more eaſy to command even that than himſelf. She ſpoke largely of all his accompliſhments, but ſhe added, 'Tho' I am not blind to 'theſe, they can have no recommenda-'tion to me; another object, you have 'no rival, ſir, continued ſhe, for he is 'long ſince dead, has engroſſed all my 'attention; and it is a truth which you, 'who have honour'd me with this offer, 'have a right to know; and in which 'I, who under theſe ſerious circum-'ſtances tell you of it, have a right to 'be believed, that I never did, nor ever 'can think any other man agreeable 'farther than as I find you ſo, in a 'companion and diſintereſted acquain-'tance. I beg, concluded ſhe, that I 'may be perfectly believed when I tell 'you, that if I could be induced to 'marry, I know no man in whoſe fa-'vour I could ſo ſoon take that reſolu-'tion as in yours, but it is moſt certain 'that I never ſhall. After this, ſir, I 'I beg you to houour me with your 'friendſhip; but as the means of con-'tinuing that favour to me, that you

'will

'will never ſpeak to me of any farther 'intimacy.'

There was a ſincerity and frankneſs in this that left no room to doubt it was the true language of her heart. Mackneal was not a little diſcouraged at it. He recollected the very ill figure he ſhould make in the aſſociation, to be foil'd in a plan ſo happily begun. He would have bantered his miſtreſs out of her romantic conſtancy, but he found raillery would by no means be accepted there: ſhe had obtained a promiſe from him never to mention his paſſion ſeriouſly; and when he did but lean towards it, ſhe never failed to ſtop him in the approach. She told him ſhe valued, and ſhould always value his friendſhip; but that unleſs he abſolutely gave up the thought of the deſperate game which he ſeemed ſtill to purſue, ſhe ſhould find it impoſſible to continue their acquaintance. There was now but one way left. Mackneal finding it impoſſible to be heard by Charlotte, attempted her fair friend. Delia heard him, but ſhe only gave him new deſpair. She told him he had her eſteem and her friendſhip, and that, if

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he requeſted it, ſhe would plead his cauſe; but that ſhe knew the heart of her friend too well to flatter him but with the moſt diſtant proſpect of ſucceſs. She begged he would believe her and excuſe the office, ſince it could only tend to his diſquiet; but he perſiſted in the requeſt. Not from his mouth, but from her own advice, ſhe preſs'd her fair companion to the thought of this abjured thing, this marriage. Charlotte ſaw the ſcheme; ſhe ſmil'd upon the attempt; ſhe complimented the good-nature of her friend; but ſhe told her, that its firſt good offices were due to her. That the reſpect which ſhe knew would be paid to her advice and ſollicitations ought to make her very careful how ſhe employ'd them, not on her own judgment, but at the inſtance of the paſſions of another; and that for this particular point ſhe could not be mov'd by what ſhe ſaw the effect of good-nature, not of conſideration. That her determination was immoveable; that the ſolliciting her either by the lover's own voice, or that of another, was an affront upon her conſtancy, and was troubleſome and not to be borne; that ſhe ſaw the end of an agreeable acquain-

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tance in this gentleman's perſiſting to turn it into courtſhip, and ſhe ſubmitted to what ſhe not could avoid.

Delia fairly confeſs'd the ill ſucceſs of her commiſſion: the lover ſaw the effect of his continu'd importunity: the lady grew cool to him: it was in vain to attempt farther what was ſet at a greater diſtance by every intended approach. He gave up the cauſe, and he prepar'd to take his leave. The defeat was the more fatal, as the attack had been carried on at a vaſt expence. It was impoſſible for him to face the aſſociation; it was equally impoſſible to return. Every country is the home of a brave fellow; he determined for France. Gameſters will play for ſmall ſtakes rather than be out. The ladies were alarmed one night, an hour or two after the whole family were in bed, by ſeeing the door of their chamber open. Macneal appear'd with a pocket blunderbuſs in his hand; he ſilenced them by threats of inſtant death: the unhappy Charlotte gave up her honour for loſt; but the raviſher had other objects in view: he took the keys, ſtripp'd the houſe

houſe of what money, notes, and jewels, the ladies were poſſeſſed of; and, after putting gaggs in their mouths, and cuting the wire of the bell, he mounted his horſe, which ſtood ready ſaddled at the door, and went off with about ſix thouſand pounds value about him. Mackneal was no more heard of. His aſſociates were no more ſeen: his friend at Windſor affected to make a laugh of the ſtory. He perſiſted in aſſerting the man to be a gentleman; a perſon of family and fortune: he was convinced he would come back, and ſet the affair in a proper light: and when that expected event did not happen, and it was clear the jewels and money were gone, he would draw up his head and ſay, he knew the intimacy between them, and probably the lady had given him the things; but that as nothing is ſo keen as a woman's reſentment, probably ſhe attempted to revenge his forſaking her by an imputation on his character. Thus ended the whole affair. Mackneal left a diſputed reputation in a place where he had never been ſeen before, nor intended to be again. The lady, inſtead of her whole fortune, loſt only a part of it, but

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the reſt was thrown into the ſcale againſt her in point of character; and the man of honour loſt an acquaintance in that family, which he never could have had but by ſuch an accident; and, at the expence of his own candour and juſtice, puzzled a cauſe in favour of one whom he knew to be a villain.

## HISTORY XX.

MEN flatter their ſpirit of intrigue too far, when they imagine all the deceit in matters of love is on their ſide; the ladies have their equal ſhare of it: and they return the compliment in ſuppoſing their lovers as diſintereſted as thoſe lovers ſuppoſe them. Every man who is ſingle has either a deſign to marry, or at leaſt is ready to do it at the firſt offer of conſiderable advantage; and the caſe is the ſame with every woman. There is indeed no rule to which ſo unſtable a thing as human nature will not produce a ſingle exception: the Charlotte of the laſt hiſtory was ſuch to this. Her ſituation was ſingular; her ſtory romantic in the high-

eſt degree; and while ſhe is to be acknowledg'd an exception, perhaps it would be impoſſible to produce another.

Courtſhip is the buſineſs of the ſingle life, from the earlieſt to the lateſt period. We ſee it at thirteen; we ſee it at fourſcore. Is not intereſt the firſt motive in it? and do we not ſee it ſucceeds? When the advantage is not on the lady's ſide, her conſent is eaſy; when it is, the lover is aſſiduous beyond contradiction or repulſe, and one way or other they get together. We are not to ſuppoſe, indeed, that every love-ſcene is terminated by a marriage, becauſe then every man muſt have fifty wives, and every woman as many huſbands: but be the hearts of the unwary taught in this particular, that the perfidy they practiſe is return'd in kind. The lady who calls herſelf coquet, becauſe while ſhe receives twenty woers, in order to ſelect the moſt advantageous, ſhe ſuffers every one of them to think himſelf the favourite, may reſt in peace under the cenſure, when ſhe is aſſured, that there is not one of them who does not find cauſe to accuſe himſelf of the infidelity; and who is not playing her

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own game, and deliberating between as many women, who receive him, which of all the ſingle favourites, as they ſuppoſe themſelves, ſhall carry the prize, which each thinks is already aſſured to her.

Diſſimulation is always at hand on both parts to keep upon good terms till the deciſion is made, and quarrels are eaſy, when it is neceſſary to break with the reſt. The pride of either ſex is too great to ſtoop to complain of the injury; ſo the world ſees there has been ſome difference, but nobody ever hears who gave the offence.

Sellius, the patron of Mackneal, was a man, and he was unmarry'd; the reſt is obvious. His fortune gave him admittance every where; his behaviour render'd him a common favourite. Sellius was more than forty; he had his little intrigue in ſecret, which render'd marriage ſtill leſs eſſential than it would elſe have been at this time of life; but though Sellius was paſt the time of doating adoration, and had not the generoſity of temper to think of making a woman of

merit happy, by an addition to her fortune, yet Sellius had no objection to being marry'd. Had it been poſſible for him to have made his way into the family of Charlotte, Mackneal had wanted a part of his credentials: but though he had tried there in vain, he was the favourite viſiter in half the families about the place where he liv'd. Windſor has been at all times famous for rich widows; it now abounded with them, and Sellius paid his addreſſes to them all. The men have a happy way of being between jeſt and earneſt in the moſt important of all acquaintances; but the women have their reaſons for indulging it. While the lover leaves himſelf the opportunity of coming off by this means, the lady ſees ſhe has the ſame privilege from it; and both conſcious that they may find it convenient to change, are pleaſed with circumſtances under which it may be done without reproach.

Among the objects of Sellius's undiſturbing paſſion, the principal in rank, that is to ſay, the principal in fortune, for this is always the ſtandard of excellence to the man who courts without being in love,

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was Meroe. Meroe was of his own time of life, and a good deal of his own diſpoſition. 'Tis obſerved, and with juſtice, that people are always influenced favourably by this circumſtance; nor is there perhaps a ſtronger proof of our blindneſs to our own faults. He muſt think well of himſelf, who eſteems it a recommendation to another to be like him; and how blind muſt be the man, who does not dread, from a perſon poſſeſs'd of his own artifice, that miſchief which he employs, that artifice to bring upon another. The ſource of the infatuation is not deep; nature, perhaps, gave it as a ſcourge to ourſelves, and a defence againſt our bad intentions. When a man ſuppoſes another like him, he always allows the ſimilitude but in an humbler degree; and when he acknowledges it at all, 'tis not as general, but as limited to his better qualities: his faults he flatters himſelf that he conceals; nor is it indeed a wonder, that he ſhould ſuppoſe the world ignorant of what he will ſuffer even himſelf to be ſo very imperfectly acquainted with.

Meroe had prudence and knowledge of the world: theſe, would the lover have

examined, he would have found the parents of that cunning and artifice which made ſo diſtinguiſhing a part of his own character. He allow'd her theſe; but he had no ſuſpicion of their offspring. She, conſcious that ſhe poſſeſs'd the whole, allow'd as much to Sellius as Sellius allow'd to her; and in conſequence form'd the ſame plan, and the ſame expectations on her part that he had done on his. If Sellius was particular to every woman of faſhion at an aſſembly, Meroe knew very well that it was all trifling; and that while they ſhared his complaiſance, ſhe only had his heart. If Meroe admitted every man of fortune in the country, and ſuffer'd love from them all, Sellius, conſcious of his own ſuperiority in perſon and accompliſhments, as ſhe of her's, and as little ſuſpecting her of returning his own artifice upon his head, as ſhe that he paid her diſſimulation in kind, laught at their imaginary advances, and knew, or thought he knew that they were ſacrificed to him in her real thoughts.

They had met at a route; they were mutually charm'd with one another's converſation. The lover paid her the compliment

pliment of loſing on purpoſe, that he might ſeem attentive only to her; and the lady obtain'd the grumbled curſes of her partner for paying him the ſame pretended attention. They talk'd over all the ſcandal of the place the firſt time they were out of the parties together; and as if every virtue, taken from the character of another, were added to their own, they were raviſh'd with one another at every acceſſion of new ſeverity. The lover invited himſelf to viſit the lady; and ſhe bluſh'd to think it could need a doubt that he would be moſt acceptable. He was early in paying the engagement, and the lady received him with a ſmile, that to a man of his diſcernment and his vanity needed no explanation. As ſhe knew of his viſit, ſhe received him alone; they talk'd of love; and, without engaging their particular ſelves in the explanations, they found their ideas correſpond moſt happily on that intereſting ſubject. When they parted, 'You 'will do me no more than juſtice, ſaid 'Sellius with a ſigh, if you ſuppoſe all 'I have ſaid the ſentiments of my own 'heart; and you the object.' The lady reply'd with a curtſy and a ſmile, 'I

'ſhould do leſs than juſtice to myſelf if 'I doubted it;' and they took leave, glo-rioufly ſatisfied with each other.

The lady had enquir'd into the affairs of Sellius more particularly than before, after the attack at the route, and the world was univerſal in making them, as is the general cuſtom, three times as much as they were: this had obtained him a reception juſt three times as good as he would otherwiſe have had; and the lady, though conſcious that this was a civility paid to her fortune by the general opinion, never conceived that the accounts of his bore no better a proportion to the reality. Sellius had received her's on the ſame credit, and had as little ſuſpected the truth, as ſhe had in regard to his, and was as fully and honeſtly determin'd to conceal the true ſtate of his own.

In this, and in every other circumſtance, they mutually impoſed on one another: never were two more artful people; never did two people take more pains to employ their artifice; never were two ſo worthy of ſuſpicion ſo little ſuſpected. Sellius declar'd Meroe the fineſt woman he

had

had ſeen; Meroe confeſs'd, that of all her acquaintance, Sellius had moſt title to the character of the complete fine gentleman. Sellius affected an uncommon tenderneſs to his miſtreſs, and the miſtreſs took no pains to diſguiſe what it coſt her ſo much to pretend, a real paſſion for her lover. All was rapture on one part, all acknowledgment on the other. Whenever they met, they ſigh'd, they ogled, they talk'd nonſenſe; the lover ſqueez'd the lady's hand, and the lady bluſh'd her triumph; each was ſorry the other had a fortune that prevented the doing a generous thing, and giving a proof of that integrity of a paſſion which could have no regard to inferior conſiderations.

Such was the ſituation of two people, mutually their own ſharpers and their own bubbles: ſuch was their language when preſent; when abſent, Sellius conſider'd Meroe as four thouſand pounds richer than any woman who received him; as a fond creature who doated on him, and believed all the nonſenſe of his flattery. He conſider'd her as a woman not diſtaſteful, though not inviting; and thought it would be poſſible that, with

the object of his preſent real attachment kept in the preſent ſecrecy, he might augment his fortune, add another pair to his coach, and find home tolerable. There was ſomething of the coxcomb in Sellius which did not pleaſe Meroe in her diſintereſted thoughts; but he was well enough upon the whole, and he was fond of her: ſhe thought it would be a match of prudence, and that if there were not much happineſs in the caſe they could live comfortably. Such were the reſolutions, ſuch the ſentiments of the two fierceſt lovers when they met that ever fire and eloquence inſpired to rapture. If they met now in public, all their regard was paid to one another; each found in the other the weighty advantage over all the rival claims; and this was an advantage to be acknowledg'd in preference to all. Meroe yet was a coquette in her heart, Sellius a coxcomb in his diſpoſition; each had forced the preference they gave, and conſequently each courted and was courted by all the gay people of the one ſex or the other. At the appearance of either, all was mute: if Meroe's entering the room ſilenced all the flattery of the polite Sellius, the lovers who were found

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with Meroe decamp'd one by one after that maſter of her heart appear'd; and the world, as well as themſelves, now gave them to one another. They ſaw it, and as it was what each had private reaſons, and each the ſame to be pleaſed with, each enjoy'd it in the ſame degree. What the world had done for them, it only remained for them to do for one another. Marriage was propoſed by the lover; the lady received it with a ſmile. It was the buſineſs of both to hurry it, to prevent enquiries, and it was hurried. Each affected to do an act of generoſity in not enquiring into the circumſtances of the other; and both, by the ſame artifice, anſwer'd the ſame purpoſe of preventing an enquiry into their own. By mutual ſcheme, and mutual deceit, they married without more ceremony. Sellius was in rapture on the fortune of his miſtreſs, and he found it eaſy to transfer that rapture to her perſon; Meroe could return the counterfeit joy with a joy counterfeited on the ſame principle; and for a week the deluſion continued in full force on both ſides. The huſband thought it a duty to diſſemble to a woman who doated on him; and the wife, tho' a pain to her,

kept up the pretence of fondneſs for a man that really ador'd her.

Theſe were the ſentiments of two people who were to be undeceived; and who, as they had gone on hand in hand in the fraud, were to ſhare an equal diſappointment in the diſcovery. Both were backward to enquire into matters of fortune, as both were convinced there would be ſome deficiency on their own ſide; perhaps it would have been longer before the enquiry was made, if a little pet had not occaſion'd it. 'Tis in the nature of man to be inſolent in ſucceſs: of all men, he who has a tincture of the coxcomb has moſt tendency to it. Sellius could not but banter his bride on her fondneſs; he rallied her as acting out of character, except ſhe had been under twenty; and, with the provocation of the little pertneſs that this produced, confeſs'd that there was a ſort of farce to be kept up at the time of marriage, which he had ſupported as long as he could; but that it was time it ſhould be over: that he ſhould always eſteem and reſpect her as a woman of ſenſe and honour; but for the impertinence of all theſe fondneſſes there

was

was no foundation for them in nature, and ſhe muſt be content to ſee them fall.

It was with indignation ſhe had heard the beginning of the declaration; but the calmneſs and deliberation with which it was deliver'd gave her time to recollect herſelf; her anger ſunk into contempt, and ſhe told him, with a moſt impudent laugh, that ſhe thank'd him for ridding her of the moſt painful thing in the world, diſſimulation. That ſhe ſhould return his ſentiments of friendſhip and eſteem, and ſhould always remember herſelf oblig'd by the acceſſion he had brought to her fortune, and ſhould ſuppoſe there was ſome ſincerity in the man who married under a diſparity of that kind: but that as to the fooliſh endearments ſhe had ſuffer'd herſelf to ſhew him, they were but diſſimulation in return for diſſimulation. That ſhe thought him a very good kind of a man, and did not doubt but ſhe ſhould live very happily with him; but as to his perſon or his accompliſhments, there were thoſe among the people who had pretended to her that would have ſet them in a very

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ill light. This was more than prudence would have dictated to the lady; but under the pique of ſo much inſolence, ſhe could not curb it. The huſband look'd fooliſh, but it was not at the contempt with which he was treated; that hurts not a man, unleſs it comes from one whom he regards; but here was a weightier conſideration: the lady whom he had married for the ſake of her ſuperior fortune thank'd him, in the midſt of her reſentment, for the ſuperiority of his. This was a ſtroke indeed; the beſt explanation was an immediate enquiry into the affairs of both. The lady look'd as blank upon this explanation as the huſband. It appear'd that both having deceived in about an equal degree, the match, in regard to their real fortunes, was about an equal one; but both the huſband and the wife entertain'd ſo high an opinion of their perſons and accompliſhments, that both thought themſelves robb'd of at leaſt as much as had been the imaginary gain.

Here was a very uncomfortable ſetting out for people of the tempers and expectations of our hero and heroine. They were

were in the wrong to ſuppoſe they could eſteem one another, though without the tender paſſion they had, with ſo much addreſs, counterfeited to one another: it is not enough to create eſteem that there be prudence, and the other valuable qualities theſe people poſſeſſed; there requires virtue. The mutual diſſimulation had given an irrecoverable ſtab to that, and while they ſaw what would have concurred in the raiſing an eſteem, they found that ſomething wanting which would have finiſhed it. They grew uneaſy with one another; they were indifferent at night, and peeviſh in the morning: the day was ſpent in mutual diſſatisfaction and mutual accuſation. The huſband did not think it worth while to conceal his other attachment from a wife whoſe peace he did not regard, and with whom he could not have been upon worſe terms. The miſtreſs whom he had concealed while he was making his fortune, and whom he had intended to have kept concealed when he had made it, was now acknowledged as ſuch. If he dreſſed in the houſe where his wife liv'd, it was becauſe it was not decent to remove his cloaths and ſervants into the

apartments

apartments of a ſingle lady. All the reſt of his time was ſpent there; and it was no ſecret to the town, or, in conſequence, to the whole country, that things had not anſwered his expectation in his fine marriage.

The crimes and follies of a huſband are often the cauſe of others in a wife, which ſhe would not have ever harbour'd a thought of, on any other conditions. People could hold with the lady, and all exclaimed upon the huſband. She was ſhocked at firſt, but it grew eaſier; ſhe began to deſpiſe the man who dar'd to treat her openly ſo very unworthily. Marriage infidelities are, oftener than the huſhands ſuppoſe, paid in kind. What would never have come into the thoughts of the lady on any other occaſion, was forced into them now. If the women railed at the perfidy of the huſband, the men pleaded for her returning it. Revenge went farther than inclination; ſhe ruined herſelf to ſcandalize the man ſhe hated. She did not even affect to make a ſecret of her conduct; ſo blind to revenge. The women forſook her; the huſband found it eaſy to

prove

prove what ſhe took no pains to conceal: they were ſeparated in form; the lady had her fortune reſtor'd; and both ſat down with the imaginary loſs of what vaſt things they might have obtain'd by their accompliſhments.

## HISTORY XXI.

IT would be a happy world, if men would profit of example, and amend the errors of their own conduct by the ill ſucceſs of others; but this is a thing to be wiſhed rather than expected. The huſband of the lady, with whoſe divorce we cloſed the laſt hiſtory, had a nephew, the ſon of a younger brother, and the heir of all his virtues. We err when we ſuppoſe the temper of the mind deſcends with the blood and juices. We ſee children like their parents in their good and their ill qualities; but 'tis not from their vices they draw the reſemblance, but from their example. 'Tis not that they have been the parents, but that they have been the guides and guardians of thoſe years, at which example makes the deepeſt

deepeſt impreſſion; that they continue themſelves to poſterity more in the manners than in the features of their offspring.

Amoris, the nephew of our man of intrigue, had in him, not in his parent, this pattern of excellence; and it was him, not his immediate progenitor, that he copy'd in his life and deportment. The father had been bred to ſome mercantile employ in the city of cork, where a young wife, whom he had marry'd without twopence, had honour'd his table with eleven of theſe proofs of conjugal affection. The fortune of a younger brother could have been no way ſo advantageouſly employed as in trade; but a family ſo quick and ſo numerous ſtartled the adventurer, and kept down the effects of a true and laudable ſpirit of induſtry. The elder brother had begg'd a ſon to educate under his own care: they might be ſpar'd; and Amoris, the boy whoſe face and figure promis'd moſt, was ſelected as moſt proper to be ſent upon his fortune into a ſtrange country, moſt likely to make it under ſuch a patronage.

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The uncle received the boy at about nine years old: he had a private tutor for him in his houſe till ſeventeen. In theſe, which are the years of imitation, he had imbibed a thorough tincture of the uncle's manner; and his tutor, who had been ſent for on purpoſe from one of the univerſities where he had been educated, under the influence of two young men of quality, was ſufficiently a man of the world to finiſh the plan his own obſervation and his patron's virtues had inſtill'd.

At ſeventeen, ripe for the world, and full of the valuable ſentiments he had been taught under his tutelage, he was put to the temple to follow the law. The allowance his uncle made him was genteel; it gave him an opportunity of falling into the beſt company the place afforded. He ſtudy'd novels as the cuſtom of the place; and ſometimes, under the influence of a very judicious friend, would give his opinion of a play or poem. As to the laws of writing, the world forbad all thought of them. The place and expectations give men of

true

true taſte an averſion to every idea that can be expreſs'd by that hateful ſound. They judge upon the whole: the thing altogether pleaſes or diſpleaſes; and 'tis inſolence to aſk why of people, who never troubled themſelves with ſuch a queſtion. Amoris was one of the moſt conſpicuous of this conſpicuous throng; he figur'd at George's; he gave the ſignal of applauſe or of damnation at the theatre; he ſet the faſhion to the youth of taſte; and it is confidently aſſerted of him, that he was the introducer of that kind of wig which has but one curl: however that be, he, beyond diſpute, was the inventor of that ſpecies of ſhoe which applies the buckle to the toe; and of that coat, whoſe pocket exceeds, by an inch, in its approach to the ſkirt, the ſtandard exhibited, as if ridiculous, by the lord Foppington in one of our comedies.

Great ſouls may trifle with things of this inſignificance, but they are not to be tied down to them as the objects of their ultimate purſuit. It was enough to have ſhone in this excentric ſphere; to make the pride of it the buſineſs or the triumph of a life, was below the dignity

of

of ſuch ſentiments as animated our riſing hero. He qualified himſelf for action among thoſe buſy tempers, but he look'd with diſdain on thoſe who thought of no farther honours. He was conſpicuous. He was qualified to be of importance: it would have been idle to have continued the means after the end was obtained. He now began to look forward into the buſineſs of life: he ſaw himſelf qualified for any taſk, and the choice was the buſineſs of his determination.

The bar preſented itſelf as one road to eminence; he could not ſuppoſe that the perſon who had reparteed at George's, who had deliver'd the ſenſe of the town from the pit at one of Garrick's farces, who had diſputed with the Orator at Clare-Market, and had harangued at the Robin Hood, could fail of making a firſt figure there; but the proficience there, though certain, was ſlow; he deteſted all works of time, and reſolved on ſhorter roads to greatneſs. He recollected the ſcheme of his uncle's plan of life; he ſaw the obtaining a woman of fortune as the aim and end of all his purſuits, the completion of all his purpoſes; he look'd in

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the glaſs, he threw his beſt embroider'd ſuit upon the bed, he examin'd, Milo like, his hands and teeth; he cut a caper, and he laugh'd at the ſuperannuated dotard, and determined to purſue the ſame plan upon ſo infinitely better a foundation.

The uncle was unmarried when Amoris ſet out upon his knight-errant expedition to the land of matrimony. His future marriage did not ſpoil the ſcheme, for it was loſt before. Amoris had all the advantage of that promiſing ſituation, and he took all the means of profiting of it. The uncle had look'd out among the unhandſome and the declined toward the vale of years, as the object of his attempts; the boy, more ſanguine in his hopes, more ſatisfied with his pretenſions, had thought of higher conqueſts. While the uncle was informing himſelf at the door of an aſſembly, who was that elderly lady, and to whom that chariot with the widow's arms belong'd, the boy was dreſſing at every thing within the rounds of the polite, falling in love with the handſomeſt woman he ſaw at a route or at Ranelagh, and then enquiring what

was

was her fortune. The good-natur'd goddeſs, who directs that concourſe of accidents which we dignify with the name of chance, has been more upon her guard for mortals than is perhaps imagin'd: beauty and wealth appear to be the two great goods that can fall to the ſhare of a woman, and ſhe has ſeldom given them both to the ſame perſon. It happen'd that Amoris had generally reaſon to curſe his fortune on the enquiry; but blind to the general diſpoſal and order of things, he continued the ſame road which had ſo univerſally led him to diſappointments. His adventures at the public places ſeldom led him farther than to have an ogle and a ſigh as the preſent deity of his adoration paſs'd by him. He would enquire who that angelic creature was of every man he met, 'till he found ſomebody who knew her; he would ſend him poſt with the notice of her conqueſt; and the lady, who was by this time confirmed in the meaning of his glances, and aſſured of his being a man of great fortune and great expectations, met him at the next round with a lower curtſey, and eyes of more honourable obſervation. The place where they met at firſt would draw the

lady,

lady, who hoped more than ſhe was likely to meet with from ſuch a conqueſt, to frequent it often: the lover, who was not averſe to the power of charming, though he could make the leaſt uſe of it with every body toward whom he directed its influence, was ſure to be as conſtant there; and ſcarce an evening but he had the pride and pleaſure of confirming half a dozen old conqueſts, and making at leaſt ſome new one. People ſaw the young fellow the object of a general obſervation among the women; the more judicious conſtrued him into a coxcomb; but the envy which it was palpable reign'd univerſally among his cotemporary beaux, ſupported him in the plan againſt all oppoſition.

It was not only in public that Amoris meditated conqueſt; he ſaw he was received almoſt every where in his attempts; the only two or three people who had been cold to him were women of immenſe fortune: for the reſt, whoever he met with at a route, whoever he ſaw on a viſit, if there was beauty, ſtruck him; and under the happy confidence which his frequent good reception had given

given him, whoever ſtruck him heard his adorations. It was eaſy for a young fellow of figure, family, and expectations, to be received any where; Amoris ſeldom aſk'd to viſit where it was not allowed him. He was the admirer of every woman of repute for beauty, or of real eſtate, that could be met with; he preſs'd his fortune univerſally, and by that ſole blunder he found it impoſſible that he ſhould make it. No woman eſcaped his addreſſes; few women received him otherwiſe than well. The uncle heard of his good reception to-day in this family, and to-morrow in another; he ſaw the proſpect fair as could be wiſh'd, and he generouſly encouraged it. Every man born in Ireland has a propenſity to marrying a fortune; it ſeems the national malady, epidemic and univerſal, like the ſcurvy to England, or ſwell'd throats to the inhabitants of the Alps: it animates the young, the old, the rich the poor, the accompliſh'd and the unaccompliſh'd; and every one of them is ready to aſſiſt another in that which he eſteems ſo eligible in himſelf.

The uncle furniſh'd his young ward with that firſt of all requiſites in all purſuits, money. He dreſs'd, he treated, he made the greateſt figure wherever he appear'd; and it was, at the inſtance of the patron of his fortune, univerſally propagated that this young fellow was the deſtin'd heir to it. The expectation gave him admittance into almoſt any family; and neither he nor his uncle muſt have been of the kingdom that was honour'd with their birth, if they had doubted his keeping himſelf upon a proper footing after the diſcovery of his leſs certain fortune, or his having made ſuch a uſe of the time of the miſtake as would render the conſequences of the diſcovery not worth regarding. Thus thought the uncle; thus aſſured himſelf the nephew: but it is not uncommon for the people who ſet out on theſe ſchemes to make up their reckonings without conſulting the creditor. The uncle did not doubt but that a young fellow, who was received in half the genteel families in town, and in the greateſt part of thoſe on the expreſs terms of a lover, might make himſelf ſecure of ſome niece or

daughter

daughter among them: the nephew aſſur'd himſelf the world lay before him where to chuſe, and that he ſhould find no difficulty wherever he fixed. The youth did not diſcover, that the multiplicity of the game that was ſtarted before him diſtracted his choice; nor did the uncle find out, till too late, either for his ſaving his money, or the boy's character, that he had turned a puppy looſe into a warren, who would diſturb every creature in it without catching one of them. Thus however it proved in effect. The gallant found ladies as ready to liſten as he was to flatter; but he found afterwards, that they meant no more by lending him their ear, than he did by proſtituting his tongue to them. If he deceived while he complimented, they laugh'd at him while they attended to it; and while he preferr'd fifty people to every woman who heard the words angel and goddeſs from him, there was not, in the midſt of all her acknowledgements, a ſmaller number of men from whom ſhe would rather have heard them.

The civilities that are univerſal are worth nothing. A man, in order to praiſe with a good grace, muſt ſometimes rally: the good word of him who ſpeaks well of every body is not worth having; and it is on the ſame principle, and a juſt one too, that the women ſet no price upon the compliments which they ſhare with a whole ſex. The bows, and the ogles, and the ſighs, and the exclamations of Amoris, which once had captivated many a heart at Ranelagh, were now the jeſt of every woman to whom they were offered. The beauties are generally acquainted; and tho' they do not compare notes, they boaſt of their conqueſts, and that anſwers the ſame purpoſe. If one valued herſelf upon the doux yeux of the charming Amoris, another reply'd, they came but at ſecond-hand: if one boaſted of the angelic creature that had burſt in rapture from his lips as ſhe paſſed by to-day, ſome one in the company aſſur'd her, that the ſame ſalutation had been directed to her ear before: if one talked of Amoris's hair, or another praiſed his complexion, a third, a fourth, a fifth, and ſo on to

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the end of the party, enquir'd, what, my Amoris? It was diſcover'd, that he was every body's Amoris; and, in conſequence, no body cared a pin for him. The women have ambition, they will not be content with a piece of a heart; they muſt have the whole, or they think nothing worth having. What would have recommended the gay fellow to any one of them as the moſt agreeable creature in the world, procured him no better a name among them all than that of a coxcomb; and the firſt notice he had of the diſcovery was, that people who uſed to ſtoop the head, turn'd up the noſe at him and his civilities.

Nothing aſtoniſhes a man ſo much as the ſeeing that he has loſt his reputation when he does not know how. Amoris muſt have been long conſcious that he deſerv'd all this contempt and inſult; but he was under no apprehenſion that he ſhould ever receive it; he truſted to the vanity of every woman to aſſure her, that if it was not only to her that he paid his vows, at leaſt only to her that he was in earneſt; and that what with others was raillery, was, when directed to her, ado-

ration. The thunder-clap of contempt fell upon him with the more terror, as he had perſuaded himſelf there could be no danger of it. Poſſibly he might have condeſcended to ſome fears on that head at his firſt ſetting out; but frequent eſcape is a natural parent of ſecurity, and he had now outliv'd a ſenſe of the poſſibility of that which happen'd. He had by this time diſcover'd ſo much of the temper of the ſex, to know that what they once determin'd loſt was irrecoverable. He gave up the public eſtimation in which he ſaw he could not long be held, and he depended on his private intimacies. He returned the exaltation of the noſe with a toſs of the head, and would laugh at the vain creatures who had uſed to miſtake the natural look of his eyes for veneration to their particular perſons.

It was now that the univerſal ſcene of his gallantry might have been of ſervice to him. People began to laugh at themſelves for fancying he had been particular to them, and to allow that what he ſaid muſt be the caſe, ſince there was not a woman who had miſs'd the imaginary

devotion.

devotion. Could Amoris have ſeiz'd on this favourable conjuncture, and countenanced his gallant aſſertion, and what was now the general opinion, by a reſerve in his future conduct, all had been recovered; but nature, as one of the old poets ſays, though you thruſt her off with a pitchfork, will return upon you, it fared ſo with Amoris. What he had eſcaped as a cenſure on his public character, he drew upon himſelf in his more private one. Could he have ſingled out any one of the women of worth and fortune by whom he was well received, and given up the reſt to her, all would have been as it could have been wiſh'd, and 'tis ſcarce poſſible that he could have miſs'd of ſucceeding: but what had been fatal to him at the public places he muſt continue at the tea-tables; he had bow'd and ſmil'd to every woman at thoſe general rendezvous; he talk'd of love to every one whom he met on theſe private parties; he had a new miſtreſs in every family, and not rarely would engage with two at the ſame table. Women who are worth attention deſpiſe the regard of a man who is common. The lover's ſchemes were not a little broken

in upon by this idle conduct; but as if this was not enough, he labour'd his own deſtruction by more open means: he ſelected the beſt fortune of the women whom he ſaw on theſe occaſions; he talk'd in earneſt to her; he ſwore that to the others he never was more than idly civil, and laid to their vanity the charge of his being underſtood into meanings which he had not. He had more credit than he deſerved; he was believed. He was as well received in his moſt ſerious propoſals as he had been in his flighty compliments, and his uncle heard, on all hands, that he was on the point of a marriage.

The ſucceſs of this attempt in one place led him to make it in another; he was received, though not ſo frankly, yet not leſs favourably there. It was more difficult to conceal from theſe what it was not his buſineſs they ſhould know, than it had been to perſuade either of them ſingly againſt the general appearances of his conduct.

The woman who receives a man on the rational plan of a lover, ſuppoſes ſhe has a right

a right to his time: ſhe knows it is the greateſt compliment he can pay her, and ſhe expects it all. How the lover was to play his cards, between two women who had equal right to this expectation, and to neither of whom he could give even the half, ſince there was ſtill a legion whom his vanity could not ſpare, and who all expected ſome, was not eaſy to be conceived: he divided himſelf as well as he could, between the people to whom he had given a right of expecting him entire; but divide and govern is a maxim as ſeverely exploded by good lovers as by good politicians. When each requir'd the whole, no excuſe was to be made for more than the half. Each demanded what uſe was made of this afternoon which ſhe expected him; of that evening when he was to have been of the party; what took you up where we walk'd in the morning? or who prevented your accepting an invitation where I din'd? Theſe were queſtions, as the true anſwers were by no means proper, that were unanſwerable. All the ſtore of falſities were exhauſted in the firſt two or three days; and the confeſſion of a truth, which could no longer be deny'd, came out with ſo

ill a grace, that the man, who found it impoſſible to part with one of the miſtreſſes, found it neceſſary to do without both.

Thus ended two very promiſing amours, either of which would have anſwer'd all the purpoſes of Amoris, and of his friends; and either of which was in his power. A man could not deſpair, who had ſo large a field ſtill to range in, and the giddy boy, inſtead of profiting of the defeat, fell into excuſes, which laid double foundation for another. He had before ſelected the two moſt eligible from among the ranks of his acquaintance: he had found no opportunity of enlarging that acquaintance ſince the chance; the two ladies being both ſo generally known, that there was not a family of any conſequence in which it was not known that Amoris was engag'd: he was, therefore, now to ſelect one, who could be, at the utmoſt, but a third in the liſt of his firſt objects of choice. It was impoſſible for him to fix on one: the choice was divided; he paid the ſame ſerious and ſolemn addreſſes to two, and he was tolerably received by both. Inſtead of mending

ing the old error, he plung'd immediately into it again; but he added to it another ſtill bitterer ſource of accuſation, inconſtancy. Aſham'd to confeſs that he had been diſcarded, he talk'd of having left the forſaken nymphs to wear the willow; and while he felt the pain, that attends a repulſe in ſo tender a point, he pretended to have given it. He would rally the ficklenefs of his own temper, even in preſence of thoſe who had a right to his conſtancy; and far from gaining diſcretion from the cauſe of his being diſcarded before, he perſiſted in it, and he glory'd in it. He confeſs'd to each of his new miſtreſſes his attachment to the other; he boaſted to each of the civilities of the other; and the conſequence was, that while he thought both received him ſeriouſly and favourably, they only rallied him, as he had been uſed to banter others; and when he came to talk ſeriouſly of marriage, aſk'd him the natural queſtion, whether he intended that honour to both of them.

From this time Amoris began to find himſelf deſpiſed among the people on whoſe good opinion he had built the

hopes of his fortune; but tho' deſpiſed, he found himſelf ſtill received; he might yet have recover'd his character and made his fortune. It is never, indeed, too late to do ſo, till the world has forſaken a man; and this was not yet his caſe. Inſtead of the uſe he might have made of his repeated ill ſucceſs, he continued in the occaſions of it; and, far from mending of the original fault, he now courted every woman he knew, and was laugh'd at by every woman he courted. When a man has eſtabliſhed himſelf a character of this kind, 'tis vain for him to ſuppoſe he ſhall be believed by any one of the people he addreſſes, till he convinces her that he does not pay the ſame compliment to any other. This, from a known inconſtant, is indeed a triumph, and there yet remained this in Amoris's favour; that to have ſhook off all his other attachments, would have been the ſtrongeſt of all pleas to ſome one; almoſt to any one. He ſaw it; but he declined it. He grew the coxcomb to a degree beyond all that comedy has repreſented to us; the fondneſs of the laſt woman he viſited was the entertainment of the next company he fell into; and it was not

unnatural

unnatural for thoſe who had the pleaſure of laughing at this, to ſuppoſe themſelves the ſubjects of the next. Every public place furniſhed a man of his fertile imagination with the materials for ſome ſtory of this kind: he ſaw ſome woman or other there who had received him well, and who he therefore concluded loved him: he recollected on his pillow what incidents might have happened from ſuch a fondneſs in ſuch a place, and he related the poſſibilities as facts the next morning. The women were happy in this at firſt, as it furniſhed them with eternal ſcandal againſt one another; but they found it, at length, ſo univerſal, that there was but one way to eſcape the ſting of it themſelves, which was thoroughly to diſcountenance it. A reſolution of this kind, among the people of high life, is no ſooner taken than it is executed; every route made it a buſineſs to propagate the diſcovery; and Amoris's adventures became a proverb for the expreſſing any romantic or ridiculous fiction.

In this ſituation were the affairs of our unlucky hero, when the uncle, tir'd of

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diſburſing for ever, and tir'd of waiting for this repaying marriage, came to town to make himſelf a witneſs to the ſtate in which the lad's affairs were. He was introduced to a card-table at a family where the young fellow did not viſit; and lucky for him that it was ſo. He enquired after Amoris; he heard the ladies univerſally lament that they were not acquainted with him; they talk'd of his having diſappointed them ſo often in his expected marriages; but an old lady, who ſeem'd well acquainted with the affairs of love, juſtify'd him in it. 'A 'man that is admir'd by every body 'may chuſe his wife when he pleaſes; he 'is in the right to change and change 'till he has got the beſt; we never heard 'of his leaving one, but the other was 'a better fortune; and a man at firſt 'does not know what he has in his 'power.' Such were the opinions of the moſt venerable lady in the company; the uncle ſaw every body join in her ſentiments, and he join'd in them too. He ſaw himſelf a ſtranger, ſo that there could be no intent of deceiving him. He found his nephew was alſo a ſtranger, ſo there could be no intent of favouring him:

him: but he did not ſee that theſe wiſe people might deceive themſelves; and conſequently he ſaw all but the truth. It was not his buſineſs to let the youth know his ſuſpicions, now he ſaw they had been groundleſs: he went out of town without acquainting him that he had been in it; but to return the obligation he had to the party from whom he had learn'd to pacify his apprehenſions of Amoris's ſucceſs, he wrote him word how much he was obliged to ſuch and ſuch ladies, and how greatly they deſir'd his acquaintance.

It was eaſy for Amoris, whoſe acquaintance was univerſal, to find the means of being introduced in a family where he choſe to viſit. He found the way into this; he returned his thanks for what they had ſpoke ſo favourably of him; and, as we naturally eſteem thoſe who eſteem us, he grew very fond of the acquaintance.

Among the ladies of this family, for it conſiſted only of women, was the beautiful and the amiable Zanthe. A man of Amoris's temper could not fail

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of being in love with her: a man of Amoris's fortune, as it appear'd to them, could not fail to be received. The lady who had before commended him for his regard to intereſt, now was laviſh in the praiſes of his generoſity of ſentiment; for Zanthe had too many charms to have any fortune. He diſplay'd all the artillery of his vows and oaths, and flatteries and diſſimulations, and he found them better received than where he had of late paid them. It had been always his principle to ſet himſelf out as a man of conſequence and fortune; and his appearance and expence made it eaſily believ'd. He now ſet himſelf higher than he had ever done, and glory'd in the opportunity of doing a generous thing, and convincing the only woman by whom he wiſh'd to be beloved, that he had a paſſion in his own breaſt which deſerved ſuch a return. The lady ſaw him a truly agreeable fellow; ſhe heard of his foibles, but ſhe look'd on them as trifles; ſallies of a free mind that he could eaſily get over; and ſhe, from approbation, grew to love him. Here was a return to his proteſtations, to which he had not been uſed, and which captivated him ſtrangely.

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The man who has not been himſelf the object of a virtuous woman's affection, does not know what Amoris felt on this occaſion. He had been no more in earneſt in his declarations to Zanthe than to the reſt; but the manner in which Zanthe received them ſoon made him ſo. To have told Amoris that he would be in love, and ruin his fortune by a wrong attachment, had been to be laugh'd at as a viſionary: had he ſuppoſed the event poſſible, himſelf would have been upon his guard againſt it; but unconſcious of the power by which this was to be brought about, he had no apprehenſion.

He found himſelf diſſatisfied in all company but hers; he grew impatient if another ſpoke to her; he ſigh'd; he, in ſhort, felt in earneſt all that he had ſo well diſſembled to other people. The lady ſaw it and triumph'd; when people told her he deceived her, ſhe ſmiled at them for being deceived; and, without ſuſpicion of his uncertain fortune, ſhe found it, or thought ſhe found it, her intereſt to purſue the plan in which his offers had engaged her. They were

eternally

eternally together. The ſubject of their diſcourſe was love; the end of love, marriage, was propoſed, and was as readily agreed to: the day was fix'd, and Amoris grew ſerious. He told his miſtreſs that he had deceived her not in his paſſion, 'for, continued he, that is inviolable; but in my fortune. I am dependent on a relation, and I fear my marrying, otherwiſe than to a fortune, will loſe his favour. Dare you venture on ſuch a hazard? And can you conſent to the keeping ſecret an alliance which, if diſcovered in the life-time of my uncle, muſt be attended with my ruin?' The anſwer was eaſy, 'twas natural, 'twas truth. The generous girl lov'd him; ſhe was above all mercenary conſiderations: ſhe told him there were no conditions under which the being his wife would not make her the happieſt of the human ſpecies. They were married, they were happy, and the ſecret was inviolable. It is not cuſtomary for the fondneſs of people after they are married to betray their hearts; but with theſe there was no concealing it. Amoris was miſerable, if Zanthe was not of the party; Zanthe could talk of nothing but Amoris: when abſent,

abſent, their tongues, when preſent, their eyes betray'd them. The world ſaw their fondneſs; they, by mutual conſent, declared againſt marriage: worſe was ſuſpected. Women, when they think ill of one another, are indefatigable in their enquiries and reſearches. Amoris was dogg'd; Zanthe was watch'd: it was found that the hours in which one was miſſing, the other was not ſeen. It was diſcovered that theſe hours were ſpent together: it was found that no third perſon was admitted on thoſe occaſions: it was made out, at laſt, that there was a third place for their more private meetings, a lodging in Conduit-ſtreet, where the good lady of the houſe was not in the ſecret that they were married. Zanthe was given up by the women, Amoris envied by the men; both were ſilent. Zanthe grew big; ſtill ſhe kept the fatal ſecret. The obliging her huſband, whom the vow ſhe had taken made it her duty to obey, whom her love made it impoſſible for her to diſoblige, was a conſideration too mighty for all others. There cannot be any thing ſo terrible to a woman as the loſing her character when ſhe has deſerved to loſe it; but perhaps the

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ſhock is leſs, when there is virtue for a conſolation under it. Zanthe look'd down with contempt upon a world who railed becauſe they were miſtaken, and did not envy thoſe who, under more favourable circumſtances, had preſerved that reputation which they did not deſerve, while they ſacrificed that virtue which to her was inviolable.

The ſupplies, which Amoris received from the patron of his fortune, made the fond couple eaſy under the approaching ſcene; and the general voice of the world gave them ſpirit to profeſs what could not be deny'd. Zanthe, while ſhe found it impoſſible to conceal the ſituation in which ſhe found herſelf, would have been ſhock'd to have it doubted with whom ſhe had had the intimacy. The conduct of both avow'd the thing, and the uncle was told of it: when he had enquir'd into the circumſtances, he was not much diſſatisfy'd; he ſaw it in the light of an intrigue that would rather do credit to the young fellow among the women of ſpirit, and thoſe are the women who marry to their own diſadvantage; he found he behaved to her with honour, and he ſup-

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ply'd him with the means of ſupporting her magnificently in the particular period that was coming, that his fortune, as well as his generoſity and conſtancy might be eſtabliſhed on a good footing.

'Tis an ill world that vice can recommend people in; but ſuch a world is this. It was look'd on as an atchievement of honour to have deluded an unhappy girl of family and character; and the ſucceeding conduct pointed the young fellow out juſt as the patron of his fortune had intended: the ſucceſs alſo anſwer'd his expectations. Far from loſing himſelf among the women of faſhion, he became more conſiderable than he had been. One of the gayeſt women, and beſt fortunes in town, turn'd her eyes upon him from the very incident, which, as it was underſtood, ought to have made every woman hate him. It was not in Celinda to imagine that any man could decline an engagement, which ſhe ſhould give him opportunity to ſuppoſe he might have with her. She lik'd Amoris; but before ſhe would let that liking grow to love, ſhe determin'd to know what were his real circumſtances. People of this turn, and this impor-

importance have a right to freedoms which others are deny'd. Celinda order'd her council to write to the uncle of Amoris: the letter was expreſly by her direction, and acknowledged that ſhe had ſeen Amoris; that ſhe thought well of him; that her fortune was equal to the greateſt expectations; and that, as the firſt ſtep to a rational acquaintance, ſhe deſir'd to be inform'd what were his dependences. The uncle received the propoſal with the more pleaſure, as it perfectly coincided with his own plan: he wrote back the ſtate of his own affairs, which were conſiderable; his ſituation was perfectly known: it was clear that there was no proſpect of a future family; he ſaid he had always intended to make Amoris his heir; and that on this good occaſion, he would ſettle upon him, to the utmoſt of his ability, for the preſent, and inſure to him all that he ſhould be poſſeſs'd of at his death.

The lady was ſatisfy'd with the conditions; a meſſenger was diſpatch'd with her letter, and a copy of the uncle's anſwer to Amoris: he was enjoin'd to treat the lady, with whom he had his late

late connexion, with all honourable civility, to break to her with caution the neceſſity of his marrying, and to leave her.

Zanthe lay-in. The fondneſs, which had been in the extreme before, was heighten'd by the little pledge of love, that now ſmil'd in their faces. Amoris received the letters as he ſat on the ſide of her bed: he received them with a very different look from that which his uncle would have expected; he would have diſguiſed the anguiſh they gave him; but whatever command he might have of his words, tears betray'd him. The ſcene was too ſhocking for the gentle Zanthe; ſhe inſiſted on ſeeing the occaſion. There was no ſtep worthy the confidence which they had always repoſed in one another, but the diſcloſing all. He threw the letters on the bed; he had read in them his ruin; the lady ſaw it as plainly. Honeſt diſſimulation was all that appear'd to give the leaſt proſpect of relief. The conduct was determined. Amoris wrote his gratitude and his extaſy on the offer in well diſſembled terms: he prepar'd to pretend to

leave

leave the real object of his affection. The hours of their future meetings were ſettled; the manner and whole conduct regulated, ſo as to prevent diſcovery; and the material point in the conduct of the lover was, the making himſelf diſagreeable to the pretended object of his adoration, under pretence of the moſt fervent attempts to recommend himſelf to her eſteem.

There are few faults in a man, who has naturally a good heart, which a proper marriage will not remedy. Amoris was cur'd of all his former follies; he was no longer the gay, idle, rattling, flattering, deceiving coxcomb; he lov'd only Zanthe, and his conduct and behaviour ſhew'd it. Zanthe ſaw the treaſure ſo often boaſted by her ſex, a reform'd rake in her poſſeſſion: ſhe had not a wiſh beyond her preſent fortune, except the perſeverance of it. Both trembled at the ſtorm that threatned now; but as every thing was ſtaked upon it, both determin'd on ſuch a reſolute prudence and command of themſelves in conducting the veſſel, that they had hopes of getting ſafe from amidſt the rocks of paſſion, and the

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ſands of avarice, into the peaceful haven. 'Tis hard that the vices and follies of mankind ſhould be protected, while their virtues ſtarve them; but this is too much the caſe in the world, and it was that of Amoris. Vice may be uſeful. 'Tis not the virtuous always who have the care and command of our fortunes. The greateſt baſeneſs that could have brought advantage to the youth, would have pleaded for the protection, the encouragement, and the reward of his uncle's whole power and fortune; his virtues ruin'd him.

He was preſs'd by his patron to get rid of his dependent Zanthe; he promiſed to do it inſtantly. The uncle ſent him a remittance, by which he might be enabled to do it with a good grace; and the ſum ſerved excellently for the pretence of what could not be executed in reality. The lady diſappear'd; only Amoris knew where ſhe was: and Amoris, though at leaſt half his hours were ſpent with her, did not give room for the leaſt ſuſpicion that he ſaw her. The uncle came to town; he was perfectly ſatisfied; he was charm'd with the youth's behaviour in ſo

critical and difficult a juncture. He was introduced to the lady in form; the honourable trenches were open'd, and the ſiege was not like to be tedious, where the garriſon were ſo much in the mind to ſurrender.

It was the buſineſs of Amoris, while he ſeem'd to puſh his fortune with the utmoſt earneſtneſs, to take as much pains to blaſt his own pretended deſigns. The firſt part of the ſcheme was executed by himſelf, the other by his emiſſaries. There was not a vile thing man could be guilty of which he did not find the means to be accuſed of in his abſence; but 'twas all to no purpoſe: half of what was ſaid, the fond Celinda would not be brought to believe, the other half ſhe thought rather to his advantage; ſhe look'd upon exploits contrived on purpoſe to be told her, as proofs of that ſpirit which ſhe admired in a man, and as inſtances of that happy freedom which had charms for her beyond all other human qualifications. When this did not ſucceed, the lover pretended a ſudden coldneſs; and he gave her occaſion to ſuſpect him in a wrong place. Celinda had diſcernment;

cernment; ſhe ſaw all this was of his own concerting: it was impoſſible ſhe could gueſs at his intent in it; but ſhe rallied him on his inſolence, and paid no more regard to what ſhe ſaw himſelf contrived on purpoſe for her ſeeing it, than ſhe had done to what ſhe did not perceive owed its origin to the ſame ſource while ſhe heard it from others.

Many a man would have found all endeavours to be well with Celinda fruitleſs; it was the more than equal diſtreſs of Amoris to find nothing could make him ill with her. She could not ſuppoſe any man could, in reality, hold her perſon and her fortune ſo cheap as to wiſh to loſe her; and ſhe lov'd the ſaucy fellow who dar'd pretend indifference and humble her with the diſguiſe of wiſhing to be rid of her. In this light Celinda ſaw every ſtep taken by Amoris, and every report ſpread by thoſe imaginary enemies, which he had raiſed to anſwer his purpoſes: in this light, every ſtep he took to deſtroy his ſcheme promoted it. The trembling Zanthe heard every night the ill ſucceſs of the day's attempt, and ſhe died with apprehenſion. She who

knew the merit of her huſband could not wonder that another ſhould diſcover it. She who was conſcious that no power, no advantage, could have torn her from him, could too readily conceive that no pretence, no diſparity of fortune, of temper, or even of inclination, could make another give him up. She ſaw the advancing ruin even before he ſaw it. She expected what happen'd. She foreſaw that the woman, who would by no artifices be debarr'd from him, would not delay the making him her own. Celinda acted as Zanthe had expected; in the ſecret of their own inclinations the ſex always gueſs well at the determinations of one another. The uncle was ſent for to town; the lady profeſs'd her continued approbation of her pretended lover; ſhe laugh'd at his modeſty that had not preſs'd the naming of a day, and, with a very low curtſy, aſk'd him if tomorrow would be agreeable to him. It was very neceſſary for him to counterfeit the moſt violent rapture on this occaſion; he had been too much uſed to diſſimulation to find that difficult. The uncle and the lady were both perfectly deceived. The council was ſent for on the matter of

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the ſettlements, and he relieved the lover from the moſt abſolute deſpair, by declaring that a week was as ſhort a time as could poſſibly be allow'd for preparing the engagements that ſhould fix their future ſigning the proper ſettlements.

Amoris reviv'd, the lady was thoroughly out of humour: the event gave the lover new ſpirits for diſſimulation, and he continued his deceit ſo dexterouſly, that both his miſtreſs and his uncle were in pain for his diſtreſs, at being thrown from ſo immediate a proſpect of happineſs. Zanthe ſhared all the terrors of the firſt ſcene, and the ſtory of the ſhort reprieve were related to her. There was a week to try over all the arts of averſion: and Amoris, who had ſo often experienced the effects of them without deſigning it, that it was not difficult for him to practice over, now they could be of uſe, all the means of miſchief by which he had often ſuffer'd. He play'd them all, and all without ſucceſs; he pretended attachements in other places; Celinda laugh'd at him: he made the world report he was going to be married to her; ſhe thought it was ſo, and was in no

pain about its being known. He affected inconſtancy of temper, and ſhe told him if it were real he would take pains to hide it; and ſhe ſaw indifference, as ſhe imagined, through the thin diſguiſe. 'You are too modeſt, ſhe would ſay, 'dear Amoris. We have changed parts. 'You are the lady, I am the lover. But 'tis very well, you know there ought 'to be courtſhip on one ſide, and you 'are reſolved it ſhall be on mine. Be 'coy, be fantaſtical, pretend incon-'ſtancy, and be accuſed of falſhood; I 'who act the part of the man on this 'theatre, know what is meant by all thoſe 'arts of women. Purſue them, and let 'us keep up the farce 'till Friday; I am 'afraid you'll make me change hands 'afterwards.'

Such was the behaviour of a woman, fond of the man whom ſhe ſuppoſed as fond of her; who, ignorant of the cauſe of his averſion, could not ſuppoſe it real. All his evaſions ſerved but to give her new power; and ſo perverſe is the ſex, that ſhe who in another would have taken the moſt honeſt paſſion for diſſimulation, now conſtrued the real dictates of coldneſs

coldneſs and diſtaſte into fondneſs. All the weapons the lover employ'd turn'd their edge upon himſelf; the day approach'd, the ſentence was unalterable. The lady was determined to keep her reſolves; and the intended huſband, himſelf only conſcious that it was impoſſible he ſhould ever be ſo in reality, gave up the helm, and left the veſſel to be wreck'd at fortune's pleaſure.

Deſpair, after ſuch a ſucceſſion of fruitleſs attempts, was not to be accuſed of weakneſs. Zanthe compaſſionated, but ſhe could not blame it. The taſk devolved on her. Ignorant of all the arts of diſſimulation, ſhe determin'd on the ſimple truth. She wrote to his uncle; ſhe confeſs'd herſelf his wife; ſhe took upon herſelf all the blame of that act. "I "married your nephew, ſir, not from "his concurrence, but through my ſol-"licitations. He told me he depended "upon you; he told me he muſt have "your approbation whenever he enter'd "in that important engagement. I ſol-"licited, I entreated; I prevail'd upon "his good-nature, though not upon his "reaſon, to do what he would have de-

" clined. O, ſir, when you remember
" with what reſignation I have borne the
" loſs of character, of friends, and all
" the world, rather than betray him to
" your diſpleaſure, you will be ſatisfied
" that nothing in the headlong act was
" other than mine. Be pleaſed, ſir, to
" underſtand me rightly. I do not write
" to you to prevent this happy, this ad-
" vantageous marriage; I would pro-
" mote it. I have no right in the man
" whom I claim'd, no longer than while
" I kept the fatal ſecret which gave him
" to me. I divulge it; I renounce all
" title to his perſon, to his eſteem, even
" to his remembrance. I aſk of you,
" ſir, your advice; you are intereſted;
" your paternal tenderneſs to the man
" I have has intereſted you in his con-
" cerns, and you will give it me. I
" promiſed, when I enter'd in this fatal
" union with him, that it ſhould be no
" way to his diſadvantage. It is. The
" engagement is broken; and the con-
" tract, in equity, falls with it. I am
" willing to give up that to which I
" have no farther right. I requeſt of
" you, as you love that man whom you
" have hitherto patroniſed, who deſerves,

" and

" and who will continue to deſerve that
" favour and that fondneſs, that you
" will point out to me the means of
" a divorce. I will ſubmit to it with-
" out a tear; and, content with my
" fate, will allow I have purchaſed a
" life of miſery at the worthieſt price,
" when I remember how long I have
" been happy.

" ZANTHE.

The only man, perhaps, on earth on which a letter like this could have had no effect was him to whom it was directed. Impatient of the diſcovery, he was deaf to the offer'd advantage. He ſaw the lady with whom his engagements were made too high in rank and character to ſubmit to any terms of ſo diſhonourable a kind; perhaps he ſaw himſelf alſo in a more favourable light. He recollected the great deal he was doing for a nephew, and was, perhaps, glad of an excuſe to evade it. Whatever were the motives, the event was final. He wrote to Celinda that his nephew was a raſcal, a fellow who would no longer have his countenance, nor deſerved her's. To the expecting Zanthe he returned no anſwer;

but the ſame poſt brought to his nephew his laſt line, in which he gave him up for ever; nor could the entreaty of his friends, nor his own conduct afterwards ever reconcile him.

Amoris would not believe his fortune ſo deſperate as it appear'd to him; ignorant that all his patron's views had tended to the aggrandizing of his family by his means: ſo little of the Iriſhman, as not to know the purſuit of ſchemes of this kind to be the genius of the country, the thing which they all feel with the warmth of fathers and of brothers; he did not diſtinguiſh that in the utter ſubverſion of this plan he had given up all his pretences to future favour; he continu'd to ſollicit and to expect it; he wrote continually, but the uncle was inexorable; he receiv'd no anſwers to his letters; no return to the ſollicitations which he engag'd his friends to make: he was not without money when the diſcovery was made; the ſum that he had given to Zanthe, by the expreſs order of his patron, was not inconſiderable. This aſſiſted the ſcheme, which was begun with his own, the ſupporting themſelves till the man, from whom he had

had been uſed to receive ſupport, ſhould comply with their ſollicitations, and receive them into favour. It was a vain hope, and the dependance on the expectation ruin.

The credit, which people, uſed to be well paid, were ready to give Amoris, contributed to the cataſtrophe: he found his expectations fruſtrated, his debts great, his fortune nothing; he had no reſource but his native country. With difficulty it was he found the means to convey himſelf and his little family thither: it was with deſpair that he found his father's doors ſhut againſt him. The uncle had wrote over his reaſons for diſcarding him; he had recounted his favours to him; he had told the offer'd advantage; and the father, ſatisfy'd with his reaſons, was as inexorable as himſelf. The ſight of a wife, who had diſappointed all the former ſchemes for his advancement, urg'd the reſentment farther: he never found the means of obtaining the ſlighteſt favour or ſupport from him; he would have put a period to his diſtreſſes by ending his life, but that a wife, a daughter, pleaded for his aſſiſtance. Be it what it might, he re-

collected, that in his firſt preparation for that ſtudy, which he had never after proſecuted, he had been taught the neceſſary hands. What he had refus'd as the means of his preferment prov'd that of his bread; and the gay and ſplendid Amoris, the delight of the women, the envy of the men, the pride of every place where he had appear'd, ſtarv'd the remainder of his life on the poor profits that could be made from writing for attornies.

## HISTORY XXIII.

THE fate of a whole family often depends on that of one of the perſons. It was thus in that of the unhappy wife of the unhappy Amoris: that lady had a ſiſter younger, but not leſs agreeable than herſelf. The mother, whoſe whole care had been employ'd in the education, whoſe whole ſoul was laid out in hopes and fears for both, was the widow of a dignified clergyman, of great note for his piety, but leſs for his œconomy It is wonderful, that men, who

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preach the virtues ſo emphatically, who practice them in other points ſo regularly, ſhould have ſo general a neglect of their neareſt ties; but 'tis frequent to ſee the wife and children of a man, whom all the world reſpected, diſtreſs'd after his death, while in his life nothing would have been ſo eaſy as to have provided for their future neceſſities, unleſs it were to have foreſeen them.

The rank the widow had maintain'd in the world made her a very numerous acquaintance; and a part of them continu'd her the honour of their countenance and regard, when ſhe could no longer plead the faſhionable title to it. By their intereſt, and a candid repreſentation of her diſtreſs, ſhe obtained the penſion for the ſupport of clergymen's widows, amounting, (oh ſhame to ſpeak it!) to four pounds ten ſhillings a year. By their intereſt, and her own virtues and diſtreſs, ſhe obtained a place in a public donation diſpoſed by the miniſtry; and by theſe aſſiſtances to induſtry, with the needles at hours when it was not ſeenr the little family obtained the means of life, and of a decent appearance. The

morning.

morning was devoted to the neceſſities of the family. It was an univerſal rule to ſee nobody in thoſe hours; and after the riſing with the ſun, and employing themſelves till four in the afternoon, they ſpent the remainder of the day, that is to ſay, all the day of the public and faſhionable world, in all thoſe indulgencies and enjoyments which might be had without expence. The places of muſical entertainment were prohibited by the price and diſtance; but the park, and many other places of reſort, were open; and their own tea-table was often well ſurrounded, and they were the moſt acceptable gueſts at that of many others.

The world is generally in the ſecret of every body's affairs in this town. It was known that the little family, whom every body eſteemed, whom every body pitied, had very little to ſupport the appearance they made, though that never amounted to more than was to be expreſs'd by the term decent; and every body reſpected them for preſerving that appearance on ſuch conditions. The daughters were too agreeable to eſcape the general

general obſervation. Every body talk'd of them; every fool ſigh'd, and ſaid ſoft things as he paſſed by them in public; and every man of ſenſe and honour trembled for them, as he ſaw their ſituation, their accompliſhments, and the temptations to which they would be expoſed. It has been the cuſtom among the gay world of this claſs, to attract the eye by ſingularity of dreſs. Theſe girls, who had imbibed all their principles from the prudence of the mother, knew that it was not their buſineſs to be conſpicuous in a thing in which they could not excel; and whenever they appear'd there was, notwithſtanding, a neatneſs, a cleanneſs of look, peculiar to themſelves: a plainneſs and ſimplicity in all about them that was yet more peculiar. The mother always was abroad with them; and tho' numbers were eager to ſpeak a paſſion of one kind or other to them, partly the preſence of that guardian, and partly the ſtronger guard of their own modeſt reſerve, forbad it.

The eyes of many were upon them; and the firſt offer they ſhould receive was to characteriſe the future life and

authorize

authorize pretenſions. The women do not always ſee the importance of ſuch an incident; perhaps even all the care and prudence of theſe did not repreſent it in the due importance; but what that did not, their virtue was ſure to accompliſh. Without foreſeeing the ruin of both the daughters, from but an approach of a falſe ſtep from one, the mother would have periſh'd, the daughters would more than have periſh'd, before they would have heard a breath of impropriety.

It was not only that the nature of an offer would characteriſe the ſucceeding life of her to whom it was made, the circumſtance of the perſon who ſhould make it would alſo be of vaſt importance to both. The fortunes of Amoris ſtood on ſo fair a footing in the eye of the world, that his addreſſes countenanced thoſe of any other man of faſhion; and it was not long before the other ſiſter had offers as important and as honourable from many parties at once. The widow ſaw the girls dazzled with their promiſing fortune; ſhe ſaw the hazards of ſo capricious a foundation of happineſs as love afforded;

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ſhe ſaw the dangers which might attend the moſt promiſing ſecurity, and ſhe guarded them againſt it. To the lady whom Amoris addreſs'd it was not neceſſary, convinced that he was what he appear'd, aſſur'd that his intentions were what they declared themſelves, he was received without ſuſpicion or reſerve. Others pretended the ſame merit, but with leſs right to it; and though no man would, for his own ſake, attempt in an open manner to delude the ſiſter of the lady to whom Amoris was about to be married, there were many who would have been glad to uſe the covering of an honourable deſign to countenance their purpoſes.

In the height of the addreſſes of the gallant Amoris, the ladies had paſs'd ſome hours of a very bright evening in Kenſington gardens. The ſiſter of Zanthe, tho' ſcarce leſs accompliſh'd, and the equally agreeable Amelia, had ſtaid behind her mother and that lady to read ſome loveſick ditty on the back of one of the ſeats. A gentleman, a man of figure and polite deportment, ſtept in as he ſaw her employ'd in reading, and had hardly claim'd

claim'd a right in the lines ſhe was honouring with her attention, when the reſt of the party came back. The mother of the two beauties was not one of thoſe, who, under the notion of modeſty, baniſh every politeneſs by a falſe reſerve: ſhe found the ſtranger converſing with her daughter; and, as he follow'd them out, and continued the ſubject, ſhe did not think it neceſſary to ſhake him off with rudeneſs.

Acquaintances of the utmoſt importance are often began by the moſt trivial accidents. Whether the perſon who had introduced himſelf to Amelia's acquaintance was or was not the author of the verſes, they gave him a very happy opportunity of diſplaying his abilities. They were evidently written on ſome beauty who frequented the place; and as the things ſaid on theſe occaſions are like Bays's prologue and epilogue, that would ſerve for one play as well as another, it was eaſy to perſuade her ſhe was the object, and as eaſy to plead in favour of a diſtant, a deſpairing, and a hopeleſs paſſion. Lelius was a man of ſenſe as well as fortune, he had been leſs devoted to gaiety

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than many of the people of his time of life; and to a woman of diſcernment, for, with all the youth of Amelia, the converſation of her mother and ſiſter had given her that, his manner pleaſed the more as it had leſs of the common cant of courtſhip in it.

Lelius attended them thro' the Park; they begg'd he would not trouble himſelf farther; he ſaw they had no mind to be follow'd home, and he took his leave. The ladies had, early in their converſation with him, mention'd Amoris; he knew it would be eaſy for him, by his means, to find who his new acquaintance were; and he did not think it was worth while to riſque the advances he had made, by puſhing his attendance when he ſaw they wiſh'd to diſpenſe with it, and when there was another way open to all the advantages of it. The men are not aware how every ſtep in a new acquaintance, or in the offer to an acquaintance, is watch'd; if they were, they would be upon their guard in things, their overſights in which, trifles as they are, fruſtrate half their ſchemes. The ladies, when they conſider'd the nature of the

growing

growing intimacy, had no favourable opinion of any part of the conduct of the perſon who was for making it, except that of his leaving them at their requeſt. This pleaded for him, and he in this miſſed the rock which ſo many ſplit upon, of forfeiting all their pretenſions by their own eagerneſs in making them.

Lelius had ſenſe, honour, and a good fortune. He did not know Amoris more than by report, and by having ſeen him in public places; but he was glad of an opportunity of informing himſelf from the mouth of a man of ſo much honour of the nature of his new acquaintance. The knowledge was, as hinted, on the other ſide; and when Amoris in the evening was told of the conqueſt the little beauty had made, he could only anſwer, that he knew the name of Lelius very well, and knew that it belong'd to a man of faſhion. In the morning he received the compliments of the perſon who had been the ſubject of their laſt converſation, and, in conſequence of the anſwer he return'd, ſaw him in half an hour. Lelius apologiz'd for the frankneſs of his viſit, but told him that he had fallen accidentally

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in the way of a lady, whoſe family he found were known to him, and that before he proceeded to any farther acquaintance, he requeſted him, as the only perſon whom he knew that could do it, to tell him who ſhe was. Amoris was very open and free to him: he told him that ſhe had no fortune; but that there was not another qualification wanting of all that could have recommended her. He let him, in ſome degree, into the ſtate of the family, and concluded with telling him; 'I met the other ſiſter, ſir, 'by ſuch an accident as has thrown you 'into the way of this. I have found her, 'in all reſpects, what I have deſcribed 'to you the lady whom you have en-'quired after. I don't, concluded he, 'ſet myſelf up as a pattern for others; 'but you'll pardon me if I tell you my 'ſenſe of the matter by telling you my 'conduct in it. I make my addreſſes to 'the perſon I found ſo much reaſon to 'love and to eſteem, and I hope ſhe will 'in a very little time conſent to marry 'me.'

Lelius was ſtruck with the generoſity of temper in his new acquaintance. He did

did not take a minute for the reſolution; but reply'd, 'I alſo have a fortune, 'which does not render it neceſſary for 'me to court one with a wife. You 'have ſet a glorious example, and I ſhall 'not be wanting to follow it. You will 'know, continued Lelius, I cannot but 'be in earneſt in this, when I deſire you 'to introduce me into the family on theſe 'terms; and, concluded he, I ſhall 'receive this as the greateſt favour ever 'conferr'd on me.'

Amoris had the proſperity of the family greatly at heart: he was charm'd with the declaration; he determined to be aſſiduous in promoting the intereſt and intentions of the lover, and he appointed the afternoon for the time of his viſit. The man whom Amoris introduced was ſure to be well received: the acquaintance commenced from this moment, and the mother ſaw every circumſtance promiſe favourably for her daughters beyond her moſt ſanguine expectations. The lovers viſited together, and each ſerved as a pattern to the other in their addreſs. While Amoris kept up the face of an intended marriage, Lelius was preſſing

ſing with his fair one for the ſame cón-ditions. While the lover was an example to the one, the miſtreſs was a pattern to the other. The younger follow'd the ſteps of the elder; and whatever was the reſolution of Amoris and Zanthe, was that of Lelius and his admired.

While Amoris had intended nothing by his addreſſes; for ſuch was the wild, the deceitful temper of Amoris, that he could be preſſing, and dying, while he meant nothing, the propoſal of a marriage was eternally in his mouth. When he grew ſerious in the reſolution, it became neceſſary to talk leſs about it. Zanthe, when married to him, ſuffer'd herſelf to be underſtood as his miſtreſs; the occaſion was important, the obligations were ſacred, and not the ſiſter nor the mother were in the ſecret.

The event was fatal. The unhappy mother pin'd over the misfortune of her favourite child, and died of that moſt incurable of all diſeaſes, a broken heart. The ſiſter was left deſtitute and diſtreſs'd: the unfortunate Zanthe, frighted at the firſt ſhock of the general cenſure, had retir'd

from

from it by running into the country. The unhappier girl, who had hitherto form'd her conduct and designs on hers, was in a manner left to the mercy of the man who had so long sollicited her on the most honourable terms. Lelius would have married the sister of Amoris's wife, but it was impossible to marry the sister of Amoris's mistress. The girl started at the proposal which he immediately made; but necessity and example were too powerful arguments to be resisted. The lover urg'd his passion; the lady saw no prospect of a more estimable offer; she saw no means of even the necessaries of life, but by compliance.

She, who would have been the virtuous wife, became the abandoned mistress of a man, who slighted the easy conquest a week after he had made it. From his hands she passed to another, and another. Despair, too strong for prudence, threw her into every common misery; and while her sister lived miserably, she died yet more distressed, yet less compassionated.

## HISTORY XXIV.

AMONG the few worthy and humane acquaintance of the father of Zanthe, who had continued their civilities to the family, when the ſituation of that family ennobled thoſe civilitie into beneficence, was the mother of the moſt amiable Clariſſa. Clariſſa was at that time leſs than twenty; ſhe had been accuſtomed to examples of honour, and ſhe had inherited a ſtock of virtue. The friendſhip of her mother, to the widow of the man they had eſteem'd and reverenced, was not greater than that of the tender hearted daughter to his children. We naturally are attach'd to thoſe who are in ſome degree like ourſelves; and there was more than ſimilarity of age, there was a reſemblance of temper, manners and ſentiments to recommend Zanthe and her ſiſter and the charming Clariſſa mutually to one another.

The civilities that might be done by one of Clariſſa's fortune, to people of her

own age, were innumerable; and there was not one of theſe that Clariſſa was not as importunate to beſtow as the others backward to receive. At public places Clariſſa was the miſtreſs of the ceremonies: if there was any little expence, it became all hers; in private there was nothing that could be troubleſome to them that ſhe did not alleviate; and what added with ſuch minds infinitely to the obligation, there was a way Clariſſa took of doing all this, which firſt prevented the occaſion of the uneaſineſs, and afterwards the thanks.

In ſuch a ſituation, with reſpect to theſe amiable girls, 'tis not a wonder that Clariſſa was in all their ſecrets. There was one only that ſhe did not know, the marriage of Zanthe; the fatal ſecret which was the deſtruction of a ſiſter, the murder of a parent, and the cauſe of the moſt perfect infamy to herſelf; that ſecret, which, with all this complicated miſchief, was the occaſion of no one incident of good, after it had deſtroy'd the family, extended its accurſed influence to their acquaintance.

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The opinion of the world is of more value than it ſeems, and of importance greater than its value. Thoſe who hold it cheap, know not that they trifle away the greateſt of all treaſures: they know not that virtue itſelf is but half virtue without it, and they little imagine how far the crime that forfeits it, or but the obſtinacy, (for that was all in Zanthe's caſe,) that forfeits it, may extend its miſchief. Tho' with our own breaſts it is otherwiſe, yet, with reſpect to the world, ſhe is a better woman who is criminal, and keeps up the appearance of innocence, than ſhe who being virtuous ſuffers (and knows it) the world to think her guilty.

Clariſſa was of an age to be addreſs'd; and, peace to pretences and diſſimulation, ſhe who is of an age is of an inclination to be courted. Clariſſa, though as modeſt and as reſerv'd as ever woman was, yet ſaw courtſhip, and the end of courtſhip marriage, as natural parts in the œconomy of her future life. She expected ſhe ſhould be addreſs'd; ſhe found herſelf ſollicited, and ſhe had only to determine on the doing that prudently,

which ſhe had before agreed with herſelf that it was prudent to do.

Clariſſa's fortune was ſettled, and it was neither great nor inconſiderable; her diſpoſition was humble, affable, and obliging, and her perſon very agreeable. We are not to wonder that the handſome and the accompliſh'd people are thoſe who furniſh the world with adventures; thoſe who want theſe advantages, paſs thro' it more ſilently, and with leſs buſtle.

We acquire our opinions as well as our knowledge, from obſervation. Clariſſa, as ſhe imagin'd ſhe ſhould one time or other have ſome concern with love, had early obſerved its conſequences in her friends; as ſhe had grown to the age when it was offer'd to her, ſhe had been more and more informed of the manner in which ſhe ought to judge of it; and it was from the conduct of the lovers of theſe ladies that ſhe judged of the ſincerity of her own. Nothing could have the appearance of a more honourable or more generous courtſhip on either part, than that of Amoris and Lelius, to theſe unhappy girls; and as their fair friend had

judged

judged of the paſſion of the moſt favour'd youth who addreſs'd her from the ſtrength of theirs, it is not a wonder that ſhe ſhould form her expectations on the conſequences.

With all the favourable proſpect, theſe were in the higheſt degree terrible, and ſhe who had ſeen ſuch an event from the moſt ſeeming honourable attachment in the world, could not but be in doubt with reſpect to all others. If there was a man of whom ſhe had early thought better than of all his ſex 'twas Amoris; Lelius had appear'd only ſecond to him: and ſhe had look'd upon him as one of the beſt men on earth, who could with equal ſteps follow the beſt in a path where ſo much difficulty and diſcouragement oppoſed. She had ſeen afterwards this man of all the world, from the generous and honeſt lover of the charming Zanthe, become, as ſhe ſuppoſed it, her betrayer: ſhe had ſeen the other, whom ſhe had honour'd for that readineſs with which ſhe perceived him copying him in every virtue, as readily following his example in the road of infamy. She had ſeen the death of a parent the conſequence of the

deſtruction of her children; and her eyes were open to the effect ſuch a cataſtrophe, could ſuch have happen'd to her, muſt have had upon a parent dearer to her heart than all other perſons. From what ſhe had ſeen ſhe was to judge, and this not favourably for her own concerns. She had become too ready to ſuppoſe all men falſe, becauſe ſhe had found thoſe ſo, whom ſhe the leaſt ſuſpected; and the event of her own expectations appeared to her as uncertain as it was important.

Clariſſa had at this time the fortune to be honour'd with the addreſſes of a young man of family, heir to a title, and with it to a conſiderable fortune. She was in herſelf by no means an equal match for him; but there was a relation, to whom the acquaintance had been owing, who was ready to make up that deficience. Things could not wear a more favourable aſpect,— the mother had introduced the favour'd lover, and to the mother he had been introduced by one who gave this uncommon teſtimony of his eagerneſs for the alliance, and of his friendſhip to the lady. The perſon and the diſpoſition of the noble youth ſtrongly recom-

recommended him; the generoſity of his offer pleaded greatly in his favour; and the ſentiments of honour and of virtue, which ſhew'd themſelves in his converſation and in his conduct, were the great ſtamp of the recommendation. The acquaintance was continu'd; the event was promoted on all parts; and who could have doubted the happineſs that it propoſed! Only Clariſſa could have doubted it: but Clariſſa, who had ſeen good ſenſe and honour, and every amiable quality the human heart could boaſt, ſacrificed to the baſeſt deſigns, and who had ſeen thoſe deſigns fatally ſucceſsful in the ſtory of her friends, doubted. From what can we judge, but from experience, and who can blame her doubting?

Clariſſa ſaw in her lover every thing that could command the belief of the moſt diſtruſtful; ſhe ſaw great goodneſs of heart, and ſuperiority of fortune; a paſſion that had all the marks of reality, and every character of ſincerity to recommend it: but ſhe had ſeen as much before in Amoris, and as much in Lelius. She had ſeen both theſe falſe, and ſhe had

determined that there was no truth in man: ſhe loved the youth who honour'd her with his addreſſes, and ſhe had not felt that tender paſſion for any before. Nothing in prudence, nothing in affection could be ſo much her wiſh, as that all he told her was the truth; but ſhe was miſerable, becauſe ſhe doubted.

The human heart reſts not a moment under this painful ſuſpence; nor are there any means that promiſe relief from the uncertainty, too irrational to recommend themſelves. Clariſſa had underſtanding, but love and fear were too powerful for it. Nature allows no way of knowing the hearts of men, but by their words and their immediate actions: theſe ſhe ſaw might deceive, and ſhe had recourſe to the more than natural, at leaſt to that which the ſubtle who propoſe, and the weak who believe them, underſtand to be more than natural. What Clariſſa could not read in the book of obſervation, ſhe conſulted in the book of fate. She had been uſed, from the effects of a wiſe education, to laugh at the pretences of the aſtrologers and conjurors; but fear and neceſſity make mankind ſuperſtitious, as

naturally

naturally as they make them religious. Where there are no means but the worſt in our power, we are too ſtrongly tempted to uſe the worſt. There never want, about this town, a ſet of theſe pretended conjurors, and it was eaſy to hear of the moſt reputed. We look upon theſe as trifling deluders of the ignorant; but they deſerve a much ſeverer cenſure, and 'tis one of the greateſt reproaches of the œconomy of our cities, that they are tolerated.

Al-Hali, the ſoothſayer of reputation for the preſent period, has made ſome little alteration in his name and figure, and is unſuſpected amongſt his former moſt intimate acquaintance. Many a giddy woman, with whom he had been intimate under a more human form, thinks he muſt, indeed, deal with the devil, to have come at the knowledge of his own affairs with her; many a longing creature, who is to meet him out of his ſidereal garb in the evening, thinks no inferior power could have inform'd him of his own viſit; or could have deſcrib'd, to the moſt minute particular, every article of that dreſs which lay,

though ſhe knew it not, in the next room; or every tittle of that converſation which he intended to hold with her. The adventurer, who as eager to make a fortune as the mad girl to be marry'd, applies, like the bubble in the comedy, for the aſſiſtance of a familiar, thinks the ſtars alone can have inform'd the ſage of thoſe cheats, in which himſelf had been join'd with him; and the fool of fortune doubts not his learning from the planets, the ſtory of his own borrowing from him the money that he never repaid.

From his former general acquaintance among the dupes of the world, Al-Hali is in the ſecrets of no inconſiderable part of thoſe who came to him; and from the appointments, which he makes for himſelf in his other form, he is as certain of events with reſpect to ſome others. To all theſe he ſpeaks with an aſſurance greater than any conjuror of old or modern time; and every article is true. Theſe raiſe him to the ſtars, from whence they ſuppoſe he borrows all his knowledge, by their applauſes. To others he ſpeaks in obſcure and ambiguous terms;

terms; and, where knowledge is deficient, has recourſe to artifice. 'Tis not to be conceived how eaſily mankind are deceived. Thoſe who have no reaſon to think ſo favourably of him, take up the opinion from the others; and, rather than accuſe their own ſagacity, ſuppoſe he has ſpoken to them as plainly. He has a ſet of general terms by rote; they ſuit all occaſions, and they ſerve for every body; that an old perſon belonging to them will die; that they will meet with a diſappointment; that ſome one whom they take to be a friend is falſe; and that ſomething, very unexpected, will happen in a little time. Theſe, and a thouſand ſuch, are his ready predictions to every cuſtomer, and theſe muſt be verify'd to every one. The gentleman is a humouriſt: to ſome people he will ſpeak very plain, and to others he will not; to ſome people he will deliver only theſe generals, and to others, no one but himſelf knows why, he will deſcend to particulars. What is the effect of his knowledge or ignorance, is underſtood to be that of his fancy; and for whatever he ſays he is paid.

The degree of doctor is of his own giving to himself; and few people would conceive that Al-Hali is but a slight alteration from an honest English name, Hal. Haley. The great wig, the patch'd eye, and the square cap, with this perfectly conceal him from his most intimate friends of former time. To this doctor repairs every fool from fourteen to fourscore. When shall I be marry'd, and when shall I be unmarry'd, are questions ask'd with the same eagerness; and to the one he answers by a promise of the death of the husband, and to the other by a notice of the arrival of a new gallant. He answers for both with the same degree of positiveness; but he never fixes the time. All believe, and he pockets the advantage.

To this son of the sun, and brother of the stars, Clarissa was introduced by one of her credulous acquaintance, who was a faithful follower of his councils, an old customer, and a firm friend. Not the most favour'd intimate is to be present at the prediction. The lady, who had done the good-natur'd office, waited

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in another room, while the grim doctor and his trembling client were in the cloſet. He was free in his queſtions, but reſerv'd in his anſwers: he ſpoke with tenderneſs; and after a great deal of the general cant of prediction, told her, that the enſuing night, at twelve, the ſtar of her nativity would be in the meridian; and that if ſhe would apply to him the day after, he would tell her things which it was not neceſſary to mention at the preſent. They parted; the doctor very well ſatisfied with his fee; the lady not at all with the jargon ſhe had purchaſed for it. Her confidant preſs'd her keeping the appointment of the next day, and engag'd her honour that ſhe would find it worth her while to come.

The doctor knew he was aſſur'd of the good offices of her friend. This was one of the decoy ducks of the pond, that had herſelf the privilege of hearing nonſenſe gratis, in conſideration of her bringing others to pay for it: but caution never thinks itſelf too ſure. It was eaſy to diſcover, without the talent of conjuring, that Clariſſa was one of thoſe of whom it was poſſible to make a market. The

conjuror,

conjuror, to make all ſecure, diſpatch'd his faithful female attendant to watch her home; to prepare him for his anſwers of the next day; and to aſſure him of her being worthy his attention. This was the ſtar whom the grave doctor conſulted mightily on theſe occaſions. The common herd that came and paid their fees were ſuffer'd to go as they came, ſatisfied or not ſatisfied imported nothing. The ſame faces needed not an offer twice; if every fool in town apply'd once, the ſucceſſion would laſt his life: but with theſe people of apparent importance it was otherwiſe. The conjuror has always, if he underſtands his trade, the ſubordinate occupations of marriage-broker, and of convenience for leſs laſting engagements. He has his Romeos for every Juliet that can offer, and he knows how to ſell his favourable auſpices.

The faithful aſſiſtant return'd after a moderate ſtay: ſhe had ſeen the lady home; ſhe had enquir'd the name of the family; and ſhe had addreſs'd herſelf to the apprentice of a neighbouring milliner for more intelligence. To know, the way is to pretend to know. The laying

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out a few ſhillings in ribbands made way to the acquaintance; and the mention of Clariſſa, as one with whom ſhe had the honour of ſome degree of intimacy, led into the chat of her affairs. The viſits of a man of her lover's rank could not be paid in ſecret; the equipage ſix hours a day at the door proclaim'd them: and as the affairs of thoſe who are of a condition to keep ſervants never are unknown, the whole ſtory of his family and eſtate, of her abſolute fortune, and the promis'd addition to it, was told. The information was ſufficient, and it had fallen into hands in which no part of it would be loſt. Alas! to how ſmall advantages of the intereſted, do the undeſigning and unſuſpecting forfeit every valuable offer? How careful ought the innocent to be how they enter into the leaſt acquaintance with the guilty? Thoſe who are ill cannot be the authors of good; but there is no end of their power of miſchief.

The information which Al-Hali received from his faithful emiſſary, his faithful friend, the friend of the unſuſpecting Clariſſa, came fraught with to him.

him. When he could obtain the neceſſary knowledge no other way, this was always graſp'd at with eagerneſs; but here was a deeper game than ordinary, and he knew how to play it to advantage. He determined to impoſe on even the friend of Clariſſa, that he might impoſe upon her the more powerfully; and he refuſed to hear a ſyllable about her. The lady had paid him handſomely: he had been at the pains to calculate her nativity, and he knew none that could diſcover to him more than the ſtars, when it was worth his while thoroughly to conſult them. He refuſed to hear the leaſt notice of any thing that concerned Clariſſa, and he requeſted the friendly creature that would have given him the information, to go back to her, that ſhe might not be unjuſtly ſuſpected of having done it.

He found a beautiful young creature, with ſix thouſand pounds; for that was the abſolute fortune of Clariſſa, in her own hands, and independent either of mother, or the more diſtant relation who deſigned ſo generouſly in her favour. He underſtood this veſſel, and this treaſure com-

committed to his care, and he was to conſult for how much he could ſell the cargo. There are always a ſet of people ready to take the wife with the fortune; becauſe there are people who, having no home, can live as well in one place as another; and, conſequently, while they take the treaſure, can leave the incumberance behind them. To one of theſe was Clariſſa to be ſacrificed: Clariſſa, the darling of a mother, the favourite of an indulgent aunt, the deſtin'd wife of a man of quality and virtue, was to be the creature of a villain, and a vagabond's convenience; the prey of an indigent creature little leſs infamous: and all this was to be ſacrificed to an unjuſt curioſity on her part, and to the advantage of a part of her little fortune on his who laid the ſcheme. The doctor looked over his liſt, not of gallants, for this was to anſwer a better purpoſe, but of huſbands. He fixed upon a fellow of figure in his dreſs, and one of the few who have not been born to any degree of diſtinction, yet whoſe deportment, in ſome degree, aſſumes the air of it. There is not any thing ſo contemptible in men among one another as this

fort

ſort of pride; it procures them neglect, in the place and in the degree of that reſpect which they demand; but with ſtrangers, eſpecially when thoſe ſtrangers are women, it anſwers better. The firſt thing in the world to endear a man with the ladies, is courage; the ſecond is importance; and this laſt, even when it is aſſumed without foundation, does not always diſguſt: they will talk of the inſolent and haughty fellow as one whom they do not deſpiſe; often with peculiar marks of favour.

Decius, whom the wary Doctor had pitched upon for this exploit, was one of theſe men of falſe importance. His father was butler to a lord, and his mother officiated as laundry-maid to her ladyſhip: the boy had been brought up till twelve years old in the family; and it was there he acquir'd the dignity of deportment which he never after ſhook off. He thought my lord's behaviour had ſomething in it more noble than that of any other perſon he had ſeen; and he did not regard that propriety rendered it graceful. The careful father had intended to breed him under ſome petty attorney;

torney; and had early put him to learn the neceſſary methods of writing. He had thought this ſufficient, and he had preferred independence, and twelve ſhillings a week, to the obeying a maſter, and the proſpect of ſucceeding him in his buſineſs. He commenced writer for lawyers, and he formed no higher expectations from that quarter.

There was ſomething laudable in the character of Decius, had it been diveſted of that impropriety, and perhaps of ſomething worſe than impropriety, which attended it; he had induſtry to ſupport his pride, and he had pride to conceal his induſtry. He was up with the ſun, and he wrote till evening. Cloaths were not neceſſary at a time when no one ſaw him; ſo that putting thoſe, in which he made a figure, on at ſix in an evening, they laſted four times as long as if he had worn them all day; and they had the great advantage of being ſeen for the greateſt part of the year only by candle-light; a great friend to tarniſh'd finery.

Decius was one of thoſe people who are never ſeen out of embroidery. He had the

the art of buying theſe guady cloaths at ſecond-hand; and as they coſt him only the value of the ſilver, they were at once the cheapeſt and the moſt laſting in the world. For the price that others, in his ſtation, paid to their taylors for the moſt ordinary ſuit, Decius purchaſed the remains of a birth-day covering. His wigs and his linnen, nay, and anecdotes that may be truſted ſay, the moſt minute articles of his dreſs were purchaſed on the ſame frugal terms. He dined on a dry roll; he ſupp'd on a diſh of chocolate; and having borrowed the garret of a friend in Queen's-head-alley, he was directed to near the King's-bench-walks, with eſquire fixed to his name.

To this errant adventurer, for with all the poverty of Decius, adventure was at the bottom of his deſigns, and was the inſpiring genius of all this finery, the doctor ſent on the occaſion of his new offered fortune. People of this ſtamp make ſhort arguments. When the prey is in a man's hands he may demand his own terms; and the modeſt doctor claim'd only four thouſand pounds, for helping the youth to two thouſand, as an abſo-

lute

lute preſent, and giving him a fine girl for a month or two into the bargain.

Heaven and earth! how are the beſt and worthieſt of our ſpecies bought and ſold, by the meaneſt and moſt infamous, without their knowledge! or how little does the inconſiderate creature, who gives her half crown to know her fortune, imagine that ſhe is delivering up with it her perſon to the moſt perfect ruin! The young Decius had too much prudence to diſpute the terms. He knew, if he ſaid no, there were enough who would leap at the offer. The four thouſand pounds he looked on as nothing to him at all. He was aſked if he would accept of a fine woman for a month, and after that be content to change place with two thouſand pounds in his pocket. The anſwer was eaſy. He did not heſitate on ſaying yes. Laws would invalidate all obligations that could be made between ſuch men, and on ſuch occaſions; but there are a ſet of people whoſe perſons are below, and whoſe artifices are above the laws: they entered into agreements, and the conjuror gave him his inſtructions.

The

The lady came to her appointment. The doctor had been confined to his bed ever ſince he ſaw her, and had ordered no body to be admitted; but for her good ladyſhip, the prudent gentlewoman who attended believ'd they might venture to diſturb him. The devoted Clariſſa was deſired to ſit. The doctor was called, and after a few minutes entered, with great care in his countenance, and with his hands filled with papers. They began to diſcourſe, and the wiſe aſtrologer deſiring her to inform him of nothing, but to conſider her own heart truly, and tell him whether the ſtars had given him right information as to the paſt, ſince then ſhe would be beſt able to judge as to the future.

He began with her family and her earlier years, which he ran over ſlightly, as of little importance, and only talked of them in general terms: he came to the preſent attachment, and he told her, with great earneſtneſs, that the whole happineſs of her life depended upon it. 'Not, madam, ſaid he, that any good

'offers

'offers itſelf to you in this, but the 'avoiding a preſent and inſtant danger, 'with which you are threatened, will 'give you the means of happineſs elſe-'where.' Clariſſa trembled; the doctor proceeded to deſcribe her lover. He was not content with doing this by his perſon, he deſcribed his heart: he told her of his viſits; he repeated his addreſſes. Every man talks to every woman alike; and knowing what was natural, he hit on what was true. The lady could not doubt ſome ſuperior information in the man who repeated to her what no ear but her own had heard. Convinced of the truth in this, (alas! how eaſily credulity is convinced!) ſhe was prepar'd to believe all the reſt. The raſcal ſaw he had ſucceeeded, and he told her he had but one queſtion to aſk, on which her whole fate depended. The art which he profeſſed, he told her, ſeemed to point it out too plainly to him; but her ſelf was better judge. 'Is your 'heart, madam, perfectly engaged to 'this youth, or is it not? Anſwer me 'cautiouſly, ſaid he; for all depends 'upon it. I do not aſk if it incline to 'him, I know it does; but is it per-

'fectly,

'fectly, and for ever fix'd upon him, de-
'ſerving or not deſerving? for if it be, I
'ſhall ſpeak not a word more to you.
'By my own art, and by your future
'happineſs, for both are concern'd in it,
'ſaid he, I do not aſk or entreat of you,
'but I charge you to tell me truly, Is it
'eſteem or love that you feel for him?
'one of them it is; and they are ſo nearly
'allied unto each other, that, to confeſs
'the imperfection of my art, 'tis not in
'aſtrology to diſtinguiſh between them.
'—You can; continued he, and re-
'peating the words with a moſt impor-
'tant countenance, I again charge you,
'to do it truly.'

The trembling Clariſſa told him, ſhe thought very favourably of her lover: ſhe ſaid her heart was ſo much unexperienced, that ſhe could not preſume to determine whether it was paſſion or reaſon that gave him the preheminence he held in her breaſt over all other men; but that ſhe believed it was becauſe of his truth and generoſity. 'You have an-
'ſwer'd me truly, reply'd the doctor, and
'you deſerve all the aſſiſtance that my
art can give you. Have comfort;

'you

'you are ſafe. You have too much 'goodneſs to be forſaken by providence. 'You are ſafe, I repeat it; and I will 'free you from the danger that at this 'moment threatens to deſtroy you. You 'do not love this noble youth. Noble 'let me call him, for ſo the ſtars ſay 'men call him; but 'tis from chance, 'not virtue. You eſteem him for good 'qualities which you think he poſſeſſes, 'and you will no longer eſteem him 'when you know he has no title to 'that thought. You are upon the brink 'of a precipice, and while all ſeems 'ſmooth before you, the gulph lies open 'at your feet to ſwallow you up to be 'no more heard of.'

The artful creature knew whatever he did was to be precipitated; and the proſpect was fair enough, and the advantage conſiderable enough to make him earneſt in the ſcheme. He knew he ſhould alarm and terrify her: he ſaw he had done it thoroughly, and he had prepar'd his engines which he now put in execution. 'This might, continued he, ma-'dam, is deſtin'd to your ruin: but 'there is a way alſo by which it pro-

'miſes you the moſt complete happi-
'neſs. 'Tis thus the heavens deal with
'mortals: in the ſame moment they
'offer proſperity and ruin, and leave
'them to fix on which they pleaſe. The
'moment is irrevocable: the reſolve you
'make determines all your future hap-
'pineſs. Your lover will viſit you at
'ſeven. He will preſs you to Giardini's
'concert; you have now his tickets, and
'I know you are going home to dreſs
'for it.' The lady turn'd pale: ſhe almoſt fainted. 'Twas a piece of intelligence he had eaſily obtained; but the eaſy manner in which he introduced the mention of it, not in the parade of his aſtrology way of proof of his knowledge, but caſually, and as it were upon the occaſion, aſtoniſh'd her. She took the tickets from her pocket, and her confuſion was too great for words. 'As
'you return, continued he, your chair
'will be ſtopp'd in Broad-ſtreet, and
'you will be hurried into a poſt-chaiſe:
'tis now getting ready. Your noble
'lover will be your only companion.
'By day-light you will be at his ſeat.—
'you have virtue, madam, to reſiſt all his
'ſollicitations; but your reputation will
'be

'be loſt by the accident;—he will preſs
'you to comply to his baſe purpoſes;
'for he has no other. Many have been
'ruin'd under ſuch ſpecious pretences.'

The amazed Clariſſa 'burſt into tears;
'No more, ſir, ſpeak no more.'—Her favourite Zanthe came into her mind, and her unhappy ſiſter. The conjuror had ſpoken at random, but ſhe underſtood him as refering her to theſe; ſo much does imagination help the cheat of theſe deceivers. She gave credit to the whole; and ſhe confeſs'd, that from this fatal experience of the ruin of thoſe whom ſhe ſo entirely loved, ſhe had always had her fears, though her beſt friends were blind to the danger. 'You are right,
'ſir, I know you are right, concluded
'ſhe: Who could be more ſeemingly
'honeſt, or more ſeemingly generous
'than Amoris?' 'No man,' reply'd the doctor haſtily. 'Who than Lelius?'
'No man, continued he, except that
'Amoris.' Though he knew nothing of the ſtory, he join'd her exclamations, and they converſed as if familiar with the whole event. The conjuror had little ſuſpected her knowing a parallel ſtory;

but he was too wiſe not to profit of the diſcovery: he had at firſt alarm'd her fancy, he now attack'd her reaſon; and what imagination hinted to her was countenanced by experience.

'Sir, What am I to do?' 'Only, 'reply'd he, not to go to this fatal con-'cert.' 'Moſt certainly I ſhall not. 'But, ſir, you told me good fortune 'often offer'd itſelf at the ſame moment 'with the ill; am I ſo happy as to have 'the choice?' The doctor, rejoiced to have her remember it, told her ſhe was. Something he knew offer'd for her; but he would be ſecure before he ſpoke, and when he did ſhe might depend upon it. He turn'd over his globes; he ſcrawl'd upon the paper; he talk'd of his *al Turayia* and *Nabaſh barih*; his *Pleiades* and his *Crooked Serpent*; his *Houſe of Saturn*, and his *Manſion of the Moon*. He employ'd a quarter of an hour in all the gibberiſh of aſtrology; and when that was over, he catch'd her by the hand, 'Ma-'dam, ſaid he, be comforted; the mo-'ment of your intended ruin is alſo the 'moment of your offer'd happineſs. At 'a quarter after ſix your noble lover, the

'villain

'villain let me call him, who, under the
'pretence of marriage, deſigns your
'ruin, will make his viſit: punctually
'at that moment alſo, the man whoſe
'fortune is blended by the ſtars with
'yours, though you have not yet ſeen
'one another, will enter Somerſet-gar-
'dens: meet him, and may you be
'happy. You will know him by his
'ſerious look, not common with per-
'ſons of his age and rank. He will enter
'at the middle walk: I ſee him turn to
'the left; I follow him round the gar-
'dens; my eye purſues him to the wall;
'he looks over to the river; he gives
'ſomewhat to a decay'd gentlewoman;
'and he drops his cane as he goes up
'the ſteps. Now all is over.'

The doctor had pronounced theſe words with a kind of enthuſiaſtic vehemence. He pretended to ſee what he had given punctual directions ſhould happen; and he now pretended that the viſion left him. He look'd ſtedfaſtly on the countenance of Clariſſa. He told her, who or what this youth was lay beyond his power to determine; for the ſtars would not do all things: but upon the faith of his art

he aſſured her he was worth her knowledge; and preſs'd her, if any opportunity ſhould offer of his ſpeaking at the happy moment, that ſhe would not loſe it. 'But be gone, madam, ſaid he, 'while we talk the hour is at hand; go, 'and the heavens that promiſe you happineſs accompliſh it.'

The lady took her leave with a liberal preſent, and all was prepared to continue the deluſion. Her companion had attended her to the doctor; but ſhe had not been admitted any more than before. She went away with her, and ſhe took no ſmall pride in the diſcompoſure which ſhe perceived in her countenance. She demanded, with ſome triumph, whether he was not a ſurpriſing man. 'A miracle, reply'd the other; but 'aſk no queſtions, only bid the coachman ſtop at Somerſet-gardens.' The order was given, and the poor Clariſſa was too much diſcompoſed to be able to explain herſelf. As they went on ſhe only requeſted her at times to bid the coachman haſten. — Such diſcompoſure never was in an human face, nor ſo many paſſions ever were in an human heart at

once

once before. The aſtrologer had raiſed her apprehenſions and her expectations to the higheſt pitch; and what ſhe fear'd and what ſhe hoped were both too much for words. They came to a full ſtop. Clariſſa look'd out with great impatience to ſee what was the occaſion. A poſt-chaiſe block'd up the way; they were fitting on the wheels and adjuſting the ſeveral parts of the carriage. The very ſight of the machine made her tremble. Alas! how little did ſhe expect what was coming? how little imagine all was prepar'd to deceive her, and to complete the ruin?

As ſhe look'd out, the maſter of the chaiſe approach'd to the door of the coach. He ſpoke with great civility; he begg'd pardon for the obſtruction, but they ſhould get it out of the way immediately: it was for a very particular occaſion they were preparing it: 'twas to ſet out at ten from Marlborough-ſtreet, and to run forty-eight hours by morning. Clariſſa fainted: incapable of ſuſpecting the fraud that had been put upon her: nay, if ſhe had ſuſpected, incapable of conceiving ſuch complicated treachery. She loſt her ſenſes at the name of the

place and hour ſo exactly correſponding with what the conjuror had told her; and more ſo at the diſtance they were to go, which was juſt that of the ſeat of her lover.

She was recover'd; and they proceeded. They were at Somerſet-gardens before ſix. To a moment, according to the prediction, enter'd Decius. The friend of Clariſſa had yet heard nothing of this: they were ſitting on a bench to the right, and the eye of Clariſſa follow'd the real Decius along the walks, as ſtedfaſtly as that of the conjuror had pretended to purſue his figure in the idea. She ſaw him enter at the appointed door; ſhe ſaw him turn the appointed way; ſhe ſaw him look over the wall; ſhe ſaw him give the money; and ſhe ſaw him drop his cane upon the ſteps. He had now enter'd the walk in which they were, and he bow'd to the friend of Clariſſa as he paſs'd the bench on which they ſat; but without particularly looking at them. 'Do you 'know that gentleman,' ſays Clariſſa eagerly? 'Yes very well, reply'd her 'friend; I have danced with him often at 'New Tunbridge.' 'Who is he?' 'He '' is a ſtudent in the Temple. His father

' puts

puts him there juſt to know law enough to keep his own: but it will not be worth his while to follow it.

Clariſſa was ſatisfied, ſhe begg'd they might meet him; and, if poſſible, get into converſation. The other told her nothing was ſo eaſy; they were very well acquainted, and if he had not been the modeſteſt man in the world he would have ſpoke to her before; but 'twas only becauſe a ſtranger was with her. Here was a ſtroke of fortune beyond the conjuror's or the lover's expectations. Decius ſaw his prey, and he was prevented all the difficulty of the chace. They met. They talk'd together; and the humility of addreſs, joined with the natural haughtineſs of carriage, which the poor Clariſſa could diſtinguiſh in him, ſhewed him at once the man of faſhion and the lover.

His pride, however little it ſuited with his abject circumſtances, now ſtood him in good ſtead: and the ſacrifice which it was plain he made of it to the attention with which he addreſs'd himſelf to Clariſſa, was a mark of that great reſpect

with which he ſeem'd to have many reaſons for treating her. He compli-mented her underſtanding; and that to every woman is the higheſt of all flattery, and is the beſt received, as well as the eaſieſt paid: he ſpoke with great admi-ration of her perſon, and he did this with a reſerve and delicacy that added greatly to the merit of what he ſaid: he often mention'd how fortunate a circumſtance he thought it, that he had fallen in the way of ſeeing her; and he, at length, took courage to beg, that if it were not too great an indulgence, ſhe would per-mit a ſtranger, who had no deſigns in the requeſt, and who admir'd her greatly, to have the honour of ſome-times viſiting her.

Clariſſa told him he did her honour in the mention; and that ſhe did not doubt but the more ſhe heard of him, ſhe ſhould find greater reaſon to conſent to his offer of acquaintance. It was a bold puſh to begin an intimacy from perfect ſtrange-neſs; but he had reaſon enough to urge it, and the lady very little reſolution to deny. The third perſon, who had ſerv'd their common purpoſes ſo happily, now com-

completed the good fortune: ſhe invited Decius to viſit her the next evening, and promis'd to uſe her intereſt with her fair friend to be there alſo. People who are in fear know when they have gone far enough. This was the caſe both with the new lover and the new miſtreſs. Not one of them mentioned a ſyllable farther on the ſubject. Half an hour more was paſs'd in the gardens, and the gallant Decius, not a bit the forwarder for his ſucceſs, put them into their coach, and retir'd to make glad the partner of his fortune.

The appearance of Decius, and his deportment, were the ſubjects of the ladies converſation as they went home. Clariſſa found her lover there; and ſuch was the effect of the diſorder ſhe had been thrown into by ſo many attacks upon her imagination, her heart, and her paſſions, in the preceding hours, that ſhe hardly bore the ſight of a man whom ſhe had uſed to meet with rapture. She pretended illneſs, nay, indeed, ſhe could not be ſaid to have pretended it. 'Tis a common excuſe when a lady is out of humour: but ſo much perturbation of

ſpirits, as ſhe had ſelt for five hours together, left her no cauſe to counterfeit a diſorder. She retir'd to her chamber: ſhe would not be prevail'd with to ſpeak to the man to whom ſhe ow'd many apologies for the diſappointment; and the honeſt concern he expreſs'd at that diſappointment; and the true ſorrow for the occaſion of it, were conſtrued into a confeſſion of all the deſigns with which he had been charged. He took his leave; and Clariſſa requeſted even her mother not to diſturb her.

She had been girl enough; or may it not be fair to ſay, ſhe had been woman enough to promiſe herſelf great ſatisfaction in the ſhew and equipage, and title of the wife of him who courted her: but we eaſily give up what we have deceived ourſelves in expecting. She ſaw all theſe as airy imaginations, and ſhe ſaw the deſign of her deſtruction, the fate of Zanthe and her ſiſter, as the real fortune that was there provided for her. The contrivances of the artful conjuror, were to her confirmations ſtrong as proofs of holy writ; and all the arguments in the world, had ſhe given opportunities for them,

them, could not have perſuaded her out of the leaſt article of her belief. She gave up the imagin'd title and precedence, and ſhe hated the deceiver who had made them the baits to ſo infamous a deſign. She contented herſelf with the expectation of a private gentleman and two thouſand pounds a year; for ſuch had the artful Decius, long before, taken care, though with no immediate view, more than to flatter his vanity, to make his affairs appear to the friend of his new miſtreſs; and ſuch ſhe had repreſented them. The night was ſpent in thought, and the morning ſaw her reſolution. Her faith in aſtrology was, at leaſt, as great as her belief in the ſcriptures; and ſhe doubted nothing of the ſtory that the ſtars had deſtin'd Decius for her huſband, any more than the account of Decius's fortune.

The lover, for he was truly ſo, unſuſpecting any thing of all that had happen'd, ſent early meſſages to the lady, and as ſoon as he could make a decent viſit in the morning, came. There is a new tenderneſs, that is the child of pain or uneaſineſs in thoſe we love: the generous

nerous lover felt all this, and he expreſs'd it all. The mother was in raptures with his honeſt and earneſt paſſion; but it was otherwiſe with her to whom it was offer'd. The jaundic'd eye ſees every thing yellow: when the mind is poiſon'd with ſuſpicion every thing favours it. 'Twas thus with Clariſſa. That new-born affection, with which he who had a right to her heart pleaded his paſſion, and he declar'd his pain for her, was conſtrued into an attempt in favour of his defeated purpoſe. Clariſſa was truly virtuous. She was as perſuaded, as if it had been ſo, of the baſeneſs of his intention; and as every thing was now forced into the favour of that deſign, every thing he ſaid or did gave her diſquiet in herſelf; and the more ſtrongly fix'd that rooted diſtaſte ſhe had taken up againſt him. He ſaw it; for lovers have quick ſight. He diſtinguiſh'd that her diſorder was of the mind, not of the body. The ſuſpicion of a lover has but one turn; he gueſs'd a rival as the occaſion; and he gueſs'd the truth. He reſented the indignity done at once to his honour and to his love; and he had reaſon: he did not think it prudent to declare his ſuſpicion,

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even to the mother, whom he ſaw as ignorant of the cauſe, and as concern'd at the event as himſelf; but he determin'd to be upon his guard; and, in ſpite of love, to act as he ought.

Here was a new ſcene on all parts. Theſe people, whoſe deſigns had hitherto been the ſame, and who, of all perſons in the world, had been the moſt the confidants of one another, and the moſt unanimous, had now their ſeparate thoughts, and ſeparate views. The unfortunate Clariſſa to meet a new lover; the noble youth, who had before poſſeſſed that title, to watch and to diſcover this which he ſo much ſuſpected; and the mother, quite unſuſpecting that he had any concealed meaning, to find out the cauſe of her favourite child's uneaſineſs.

The lover knew, that to give ſcope to the occaſions of his ſuſpicion, he muſt be abſent. He took his leave early, and he pretended an engagement for the remainder of the day. The unhappy fair one grew eaſy when he was gone; the afternoon approached; and ſhe deviſed

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an excuſe of abſence: the unſuſpected do this eaſily. She eſcaped to her friend's, and her lover ſaw her enter: he ſaw the tawdry Decius follow; and there was no farther room to doubt. In proportion to the honeſt exceſs of his love, was now the violence of his reſentment: he determin'd never to think again of the woman who had treated him ſo meanly; and he kept his reſolution. Great minds are above the little reſentments of the vulgar. He never accuſed the falſe Clariſſa; but he ſuffer'd his own character to ſtand very unfavourably with her mother, rather than hurt the woman whom he had once loved.

The viſits of one ſo much of the family as this generous youth had been, were ſoon miſſed. The mother was diſtacted; the friends on all parts were uneaſy; only the lady, who might have been expected to feel, and to exclaim the moſt, was ſilent. She became confirmed in the opinion of his bad deſigns, from his dropping the acquaintance when they had miſcarried; for it was impoſſible for her to ſuſpect that he had watched her; and ſhe dropp'd hints enough to

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be underſtood, tho' ſhe diſdain'd to explain herſelf, as to the reaſon of the change.

We may ſee, by this inſtance, how innocence often ſuffers; nay, how greatneſs of mind is the very cauſe of the miſunderſtanding. The reſerve which the lover had kept, with reſpect to the mother of his miſtreſs, he preſerved with regard to all the world. Every one knew he was about to have been married to Clariſſa; every one ſaw the match was broken; and no one heard him declare a reaſon. The leaſt hints that dropped from Clariſſa gained credit from his ſilence; and ſhe was pitied, who deſerved indeed to be pitied; but who would have been condemned, had only what he knew been known: and he was condemned who deſerv'd compaſſion and applauſe.

The faireſt proſpect that ever preſented, of making a whole family happy by a marriage, was deſtroyed; and in the place of it, the moſt perfect deſtruction was approaching; and this not with any real crime, but from weakneſs and deluſion. What compleated the ſcene was, that

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fatal ſecreſy which is the ruin of half the undone among that ill-fortun'd ſex; and the parent of that ſecreſy, was the ſeverity, from ſome tincture of which the breaſt of no parent is free, but which ought to be baniſhed from them all. Had the daughters of the experienced free leave, and fair encouragement, to ſpeak their earlier thoughts in the progreſs of their paſſion, that experience would be the ſecurity of thoſe upon whom every art takes place, becauſe they are unacquainted with all artifice. Tender, indulgent, and good as the mother of Clariſſa was in every other reſpect, ſhe was not without a tincture of this tyranny. She would have thought the crime unpardonable of receiving the addreſſes of any man not recommended by herſelf; and Clariſſa, who knew this, never dared to tell her that ſhe had receiv'd them. She continued to ſee her lover in private at the apartments of her friend; and he had ſo much artifice and ſo much neceſſity; he ſaw ſo much at ſtake; and he knew ſo much of that deceit by which it ſhould be ſecured, that the credulous and unſuſpecting prey was no match for the leaſt of his deluſions.

luſions. Every meeting gave him a more ſure foundation in her affection; and the abhorrence with which ſhe ſaw the imagined baſeneſs of her former lover, placed the imagined honeſty of this in a light of new advantage.

Had Clariſſa dar'd to inform her mother of the courtſhip, ſhe would have had means of knowing who he truly was that offer'd himſelf to her; but being ſhut out from confidence, ſhe was ſhut out from all aſſiſtance of counſel, and from all poſſibility of enquiry. She received from his mouth what it was impoſſible ſhe ſhould hear from any other; and as ſhe had no opportunities to diſcover, ſhe had no inſtigations to ſuſpect the deceit, of thoſe letters which he pretended to receive, from time to time, from his father.

Where there is no ſuſpicion the boldeſt attempts are ſecure. Spirited by one ſucceſs to undertake the next effort, Decius purſued his good fortune till the lady refuſed more coldly; till ſhe was ſilent; and, in the end, till ſhe conſented. The evening was fixed, and the clergyman attended;

attended: there was no desire on either part to admit any into the secret. The friend of Clarissa was to give her away; and an intimate of the husband's was to be witness to the ceremony. There were many reasons why the astrologer did not chuse to lose sight of his friend upon this occasion: it was a bold venture for him to be present; but he was the necessary witness. His figure was too much altered to leave a suspicion of his being the same man, and he was careful to speak little.

All these attended the lady's coming; but these were not all that attended. The ill treated lover of Clarissa, though he had banish'd all tenderness from his heart, had yet the remains of friendship there. He had suspected from the beginning; he had employ'd agents to make every necessary discovery; and they had succeeded: he had found the lover to be a beggar and a villain; he had discover'd the conjuror to be at the bottom of the design; and though he never appear'd in it himself, he had obtain'd a certain account of every step of the courtship, and of the appointed marriage.

riage. The officers of juſtice were in readineſs, they follow'd the lady up ſtairs, and they ſecured all whom they found preſent, as concern'd in the conſpiracy.

Clariſſa was preſerved from ruin; but when ſhe knew by what means, muſt not her remorſe have been a diſtreſs ſuperior to all ſhe could have ſuffer'd? She knew herſelf unworthy the favour of the man ſhe had wrong'd with ſo unjuſt a ſuſpicion, and ſhe never ſought to be received into it. The world has loſt its ſoothſayer; and Clariſſa pays for her credulity by a life of repentance.

May the inſtance plead with all its force in the breaſt of her ſiſter beauties! May leſſons drawn from the miſcarriages, and from the ſucceſſes of others; from miſcarriages always attendant upon vice; from ſucceſſes always the offspring of virtue, ſtamp on the minds of thoſe, whom inexperience might otherwiſe betray, an impreſſion of the dignity of goodneſs, and of the horrors which attend on guilt; more warm, more laſting, than can be learn'd from the dry

leſſons

leſſons of morality! May the examples awake thoſe who would be deaf to precepts; and the ſhadow'd deſtruction of a few imaginary characters, prevent the ruin of a thouſand real perſons.

Virtue is the guide to happineſs: ſhe who purſues the one cannot miſs the other. The tree will bear its fruit, and 'tis in her own breaſt to bring it to a full maturity.

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